



OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE  
REGIONAL OFFICE  
1275 MARKET STREET, 14TH FLOOR  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94103

402847

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JUL 24 1979

Ruth Van Cleve, Director  
Office of Territorial Affairs  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

(In reply, please refer to Docket No. 09-79-4098)

Dear Ms. Van Cleve:

We are sending you a copy of a complaint received by the Office for Civil Rights. We have reviewed the complaint and determined that the allegations fall outside our jurisdiction. We believe that the issues of this complaint may be within the jurisdiction of your office.

We have advised the complainant that we are referring a copy of the complaint to your office for action.

Thank you for your help. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call us at FTS 556-8367.

Sincerely,

Jean Kresy-Poree, Acting Director  
Program Review and Management  
Support Division

Enclosure

1-15-79

RECEIVED  
JUL 18 1979

Dear Mr. Alcedo:

PROGRAM REVIEW & MANAGEMENT  
SUPPORT DIVISION  
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS/REGION IX/SF

I enclose for your information a copy of a letter sent by the Uthink Atoll People to the Energy Research and Development Administration (DOE) that is highly critical of their treatment by the doctors.

It is a good description and account of the feelings people here have towards the DOE doctors. Altho, not addressed to you, I think it will give you a better idea of the magnitude of the problems here.

Little has changed since this letter was sent.

Best regards,

*[Handwritten signature]*

July 9, 1976  
Utirik, Marshall Islands  
Trust Territory of the Pacific

Mr. Roger Ray, AM/T&S  
U.S. Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA)  
Nevada Operations Office  
P.O. Box 11800  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89111

Dear Mr. Ray:

This letter is from the chiefs and all of the people in Utirik Atoll. It has now been twenty-two years since the radioactive fall-out from the bomb, which has disturbed the peace and welfare from 1954 until the present.

The doctors from ERDA have told us that there were 14 rads in Utirik and 175 rads in Rongelap, therefore, we are very surprised, because in Utirik we have ten cases of thyroid nodules, three of which were malignant. But in Rongelap they have thirty cases of thyroid nodules, and also three cases of malignancy. Perhaps you can tell us if there is some explanation for the same number of malignant thyroid cases in Rongelap and Utirik, who received very different levels of radiation?

Additionally, we have many more things to ask, because at present we are not happy with the way things are:

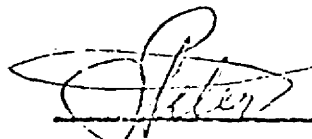
- ① Why is there not a control group in Utirik?
  - a) The people of Utirik are different from the people of Rongelap—they are a different gene pool and breeding population.
  - b) The people of Utirik were exposed to different levels of radiation than the people of Rongelap—Utirik had 14 rads, and Rongelap had 175 rads.
  - c) There were different return times for the Utirik people and the Rongelap people from Kwajalein (following their evacuation) in 1954—the people of Utirik returned to their atoll after three months, and the people of Rongelap returned to their atoll after three years.
  - d) Would it be correct to say that perhaps the Utirik people received more than only 14 rads in light of their quick return time to Utirik?
  - e) Would it be correct to say that we can expect many more cases of thyroid problems in the future?
- ② How come the ERDA doctors told us that there was just a little bit of radia in Utirik and a lot in Rongelap? That is, why are there the same number of malignant thyroid glands in Utirik as there are in Rongelap?
3. Why is it that the ERDA doctors do not examine the children of the exposed Utirik group?
4. Why is it that the ERDA doctors give different treatment to the people of Utirik than the people of Rongelap? They do not give full examinations to the people of Utirik every year, as they do in Rongelap. Why not?
5. The people of Utirik should be able to choose their own doctor:
  - ② The people of Utirik do not like Dr. Knudsen because he does not examine all of the Utirik people, and looks at the people of Utirik as if they are merely animals in a scientific experiment, and further, he does not provide a "sick call" for the people.
  - b) The people of Utirik do not like Dr. Conard because he lies to the people, and has not helped the people to understand the problems

that they confront in regards to the radiation and its effects.

6. Some years ago, the ERDA doctors discovered that a number of the Utiirik people had adult-onset diabetes, and said that 25% of the people had the disease.
  - a) Why haven't the ERDA doctors given medicine to the people who have the disease in Utiirik (medicine: Biabinase)?
  - b) Dr. Konrad Kotraky had asked the Trust Territory Gov't. (in Majuro) for the medicine (Biabinase), and they refused to give him any for the people of Utiirik, and therefore, the people with this disease have not been properly treated.
  
7. At present, the people of Utiirik have much fear of the radiation that came from the bomb:
  - a) Therefore the people of Utiirik feel the need to have someone come out and do a study of Utiirik for possible lingering radiation.
  - b) The people of Utiirik feel that their arrowroot has been damaged as a result of the radiation. At present the arrowroot stalks measure one foot, whereas before the radiation they measured five feet.

As you can see, the people of Utiirik are very distressed and angry as a result of the radiation. The people feel that the ERDA Program is in need of vast changes.

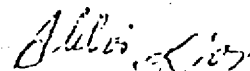
Thank you very much,



Joanej Peter - Magistrate



Atijo Alca - Scribe



Aplos Kios - Iroij (Chief)

cc: Robert A. Conrad, H.D., ERDA  
Rep. Charles Doniak, Congress of Micronesia  
Rep. Ataji Bolos, Congress of Micronesia  
Sen. Olympia Porja, Congress of Micronesia  
Dist. Ad. Oscar Dofrum, Marshalls  
Fred Zeder, Dept. of Interior (US)  
Sec. Trusteeship Council, United Nations  
Congress of Micronesia  
Judy and Ron Rakel, George Allan, Attorneys at Law