

AUG 30 1966

ADDER: MDS

Mr. D. C. Lafabvre
 French Power Bureau
 Dupont Circle Building
 1346 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
 Washington, D. C. 20036

Dear Mr. Lafabvre:

Mr. Kratzer, Director of the Division of International Affairs has asked us to respond to your letter of July 27, 1966, concerning Dr. Delpla's interest in the contamination incident at Rongelap.

Dr. Delpla's surmise is indeed correct. Recent re-estimates of the probable radiation doses to the thyroid glands suggest that the total dosage may indeed have been higher than those computed in 1956 and reported in: "Some Effects of Ionizing Radiation on Human Beings" by Cronkite, Bond, and Dunham, July 1956, TID 5358. The estimated external doses are unchanged, but the internal dose from the uptake of radio-iodines is now estimated to have been between 600 and 1400 rem to the glands. The difference is due to inclusion of the short-lived radioisotopes I^{130} , I^{132} , I^{133} , and I^{135} with the original dose from I^{131} . It should be emphasized, however, that these are estimations based on a number of assumptions which at this point cannot be checked.

A second factor which may be important is that, with two exceptions, the nodular abnormalities have been found in young people who were less than twelve years of age at the time of exposure. The one adult mentioned in your letter was the only one with confirmed cancer of the thyroid. All the others who have been biopsied or operated upon up to this time have shown a nodularity of the acinar tissue which is associated with an ill-defined type of lymphocytic thyroiditis; it is not neoplastic.

The epidemiological and clinical findings on these people have been reported in detail recently by Dr. Robert Comard, et al. in the Journal of the American Medical Association 192:457, (May 10) 1965, and in the New England Journal of Medicine 274:1392, (June 23) 1966.

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A study of the Japanese exposed on the F is reported by
Kumatori and associates in a publication from the National Institute
of Radiological Sciences, Chiba, Japan, December, 1965, "Medical
Survey of Japanese Exposed to Fallout Radiation in 1954, A Report
after Ten Years."

We hope this information will be of assistance to Dr. Delpla.

Sincerely yours,

H. D. Bruner, M.D.
Assistant Director for
Medical and Health Research
Division of Biology and Medicine

cc: DIA

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