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DRAFT:TAPE  
SMarks:gab  
5/16/73

REPORT OF CONVERSATION WITH COLONEL HOWELL ON MAY 15, 1973, HIS  
PHONE NUMBER IS 693-5799

He stated that there were 27 service men that were exposed to fallout in the Marshall Islands in 1954 who were on his list to be investigated. Three were in active service at the time he conducted this investigation and he advised them to go to the nearest medical facility for an examination especially with reference to the thyroid gland. All proved to be negative although one had had a gland that aroused some suspicion a lesion being present temporarily. That particular one also was negative in the final report. He also recommended to these people that they have follow-up examinations at intervals. Two of the group had died since 1954, one of cirrhosis of the liver due to alcoholism and the other from a automobile accident. He sent letters to the other 22 recommending that they go to either a service hospital, VA hospital or their private physician to have examinations and recommended certain articles or Dr. Conards that could be consulted by the physicians. However, he did not request any response as to whether they did have the examinations or not and what the findings might be if the examinations were conducted. Of the group of 22, 8 were retirees who were receiving a payment from the government and had reliable addresses. Of the other 14 who were discharged from the service, 3 had addresses that were believed to be good and 11 had poor addresses. He has had no follow-up or inquiries from any of these people and has no idea whether they were examined or not.

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I raise a question of possibly conducting a more extensive search and follow-up with either phone calls or some mechanism for ascertaining whether examinations are conducted on the people. His opinion was that he would not be justified in conducting these examinations with Air Force funds without encouragement from some outside agency. He thought that the best avenue to approach would be DNA. If some pressure were put on from the outside, he would gladly cooperate in conducting a more thorough follow-up of the people.