

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Dwight Ink, Assistant General  
Manager for Administration

DATE: November 20, 1959

FROM : *Has*  
H. A. Stanwood, Jr., Assistant Director for  
Administration, Division of Biology & Medicine

SUBJECT: RE SECRETARY SEATON'S CALL TO CHAIRMAN MC CONE  
RELATIVE TO MARSHALLESE PEOPLE MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

SYMBOL: BMA:HAS

Attached are copies of exchange of correspondence relative to the above subject.

The pertinent points seem to be as follows:

- (1) There is no medical examination of the Marshallese people planned for until approximately the spring of 1961; even then it will be subject to review and approval by the officials of the Trust Territory.
- (2) Dr. Robert Conard of the Brookhaven National Laboratory and leader of the earlier examination teams is presently visiting the islands but only for the purpose of conferring with medical officials there and with the approval of the Trust Territory.
- (3) It seems unfortunate that the Trust Territory officials consider the medical surveys as using the Rongelap people as "guinea pigs" in carrying out a scientific experiment, when in fact there is considerable importance to continuity in the observations of the people for the early detection of significant changes that may be related to radiation so that they can be treated as soon as possible. In this connection there has been a rise in the body burden of the Rongelap people since their return to Rongelap although this in itself is not necessarily of great significance.

In summary there is neither medical examinations or area surveys planned in the near future.

**Attachments:**

cc of memo dtd 11/3/59  
cc of memo dtd 11/6/59  
cc of ltr dtd 11/6/59

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