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COLLECTION CL-14

BOX No 11331-1

H FOLDER CASTLE NATIVES March 13, 1961

Dr. Robert Conard  
Brookhaven National Laboratory  
Upton, Long Island, New York

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Dear Bob:

Many thanks for the copy of the most recent survey of the Rongelap natives. (Payne Harris and Wright Langham also thank you for their copies.) It looks to me as though we can probably say that the lymphocyte counts have finally returned to normal limits. It would be interesting to see if there will ever be an explanation for the apparent drop in the total white count in the 1960 survey. The developmental defects in the small children are also of considerable interest, and I presume an attempt will be made to correlate these findings with what has been reported in Japan.

There is one small point where my memory may be playing tricks on me. It is my recollection that it was not possible to get from any of the natives a satisfactory history of nausea and vomiting during the first 24 or 48 hours after exposure. I do remember that there was some complaint of these symptoms while they were on the destroyer en route to Kwajalein. It was my impression, however, that they were very close to being symptom-free up to that trip. Now I note on Page 2 a statement that two-thirds of the people experienced anorexia and nausea and there was a little vomiting and diarrhea during the first 48 hours. I wonder if you could tell me how precise this statement is. Certainly I have been going around saying that nausea and vomiting will probably be absent in exposures below 200 rads although this is probably not a 100% rule, and one may also encounter G.I. disturbances purely on an emotional basis. Maybe some one of these years I can get back out when your survey team goes and see those natives again. I will, however, be very careful about getting a sunburn comparable to the one I got on my previous visit to Rongelap.

Very sincerely yours,

THOMAS L. SHIPMAN, M.D.,  
Health Division Leader

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