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May 4, 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR CHAIRMAN SEABORG  
COMMISSIONER PALFREY  
COMMISSIONER RANEY  
COMMISSIONER TAPE

THROUGH GENERAL MANAGER

SUBJECT: CURRENT STATUS OF THYROID NODULES AMONG THE MARSHALLESE  
EXPOSED TO FALLOUT FROM THE BIKINI TEST OF MARCH 1, 1954

In our last memorandum on this subject, October 11, 1965, it was noted that a cumulative total of 11 instances of nodular thyroid glands had been found in the 69 surviving Marshallese who had been exposed to fallout from the subject test while on Rongelap and on Ailingnae. All but one of these cases were in young people who were less than 10 years old at the time of exposure. The single exception was in a 41-year-old woman (approximately 30 at time of exposure) who was found to have a carcinoma of the thyroid at operation.

Dr. Robert A. Conard of the Medical Department of Brookhaven National Laboratory, and leader of the annual (or more often) medical surveys of these people, has just returned from the latest survey conducted during February and March of 1966. He reports that an additional five cases of nodular thyroids have been diagnosed in this group. The present cumulative incidence is shown in the following table.

Age at Exposure	Number Exposed	Total Incidence of Nodules Through March 1966	
		Number	Percent
1-5	16	9	56
6-10	3	4	44
11-15	7	0	-
16-20	5	0	-
> 20	<u>22</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>
	69	18	25

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of 14 K plus proportionately smaller internal thyroid doses were examined for nodular thyroids; none were found.

Among 194 unexposed controls who are now living on these islands, three cases of thyroid nodules were found, all in adults more than 47 years. Other forms of thyroid disease were not seen.

You will be kept informed of the progress of these studies; the next noteworthy item will be the clinical and possibly surgical findings in the five Marshallese coming to Brookhaven.

C. L. Dunham, M.D.  
Director  
Division of Biology and Medicine

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100	100	100	100	100	100
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