

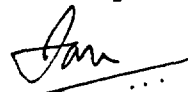
in my opinion, before one can attempt to evaluate work of this nature, one must first understand the context in which it was done. If you have made the comment about the author, I should then indicate that I was the first American Scientist in the DOE program who, through the blessings of BNL and DOE, stayed on the island, learned their language, lived like them and was culturally accepted by the Marshallese. Can you think of better qualifications for a person entrusted to carry onto the task of explaining radiation effects to the people of Rongelap and Uterik?

Based on only one criteria, that is second to none "Experience", I can say with justification that I had truly gained their confidence and trust. This became obvious to me as the days went by on the island and our conversation began to get involved with their innermost fears. I believe the village meetings held before and after a survey were limited in time and therefore an important aspect of their cultural requisite "time" was always in short supply. It was during the stay on the island that I was able to understand their hesitance to eat island produce, however, I also agree that availability of canned food took precedence over their own produce. However, the fact that their island produce was contaminated definitely assisted them in leaning towards canned food. It must also be recognized that canned foods are never in full supply and must depend on arrival of ships, therefore the need to fall back on their island produce was always there and it was at that time their concerns were prominent.

to their own staff. Mr. Amata Kubua indicated to me at that time his knowledge of the program and commended as on our efforts. Summaries of the lectures were sent to Mr. Winkel, Mr. DeBrum and to DOE Headquarters. The educational effort was also presented at the first Marshall Islands meeting held at Livermore during June 1977 at which time, Mr. Roger Ray remarked that the effort was indeed humanitarian. A paper was presented at the Health Physics Society meeting in July, 1979, an abstract of which was given to Dr. Wachholz when he visited BNL in May, 1979. The need to present a comprehensive program was recognized and an abstract was drawn up in June, 1979 for the Mid-Year Meeting on Health Physics Training of the Health Physics Society. The paper was completed in August, 1979 and copies were sent to you and others at DOE headquarters. I may also add that when Mr. Ataj Balos visited BNL in June, 1979, he was hoping that we would continue our educational effort in the Marshalls.

Your other valuable comments will indeed be incorporated in the final paper and I assure you that your comments have only served to enhance the quality of the paper.

Yours truly,



Janakiram R. Naidu, Ph.D.

JRN/slg

cc: Dr. H. S. Pratt

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