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BOM:HDS

December 17, 1957

Mr. Anthony T. Lausi, Director  
Office of Territories  
Department of the Interior  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Lausi:

We are very pleased to learn of the willingness of the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands to assist us in the fifth follow-up medical examination of the Rongelap people. Please accept our appreciation of your assistance in this matter.

The comment of the High Commissioner regarding an unsettling effect of the study has been in the minds of those planning the expedition and there is reason to believe it will be minimal. First, those making the trip and carrying out the examinations will, for the most part, be men who previously went out. In that sense it will be a situation of old friends meeting again, but, more important, these men understand and respect the mores and ways of the Rongelapese. Secondly, in the planning there has always been a recognition of the fact that survey medical procedures are sometimes negated by an overenthusiastic approach. Accordingly, the planned survey is quite definitely restrained, and will concern itself with the essentials.

We have taken the liberty of forwarding the copy of your letter of December 4 to Dr. Robert Conard, the leader of the team, and we hope you will be kind enough to inform the High Commissioner of our awareness of the problem and that the Rongelapese will be disturbed as little as possible.

With our sincere thanks for your aid,

Yours very truly,

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

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

cc: Dr. Robert A. Conard, BNL  
Lt. Cmdr. I.V. King, NMRI

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