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28 March 1954

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407572

Dear George,

Thanks for the reprint of The Argonne incident. Our experience to date is summarized:

- a. 32 of 64 Tongalap natives epilated in part no further epilation being seen.
- b. 2 of 18 Alingines have epilated slightly.
- c. Skin lesions of forehead, axilla, feet, cubital fossa and neck are seen in 13 of Tongalaps and in 8 of Alingines group.
- d. Preliminary report on skin biopsies from Dr. David Wood of Univ. of Calif. and NRDJ follows "Extensive focal changes epidermis and papillary layers indicate impending severe breakdown tissue. Little damage in deeper layers of dermis." To date only one foot has ulcerated. Other lesions have degenerated but only superficially. Further biopsies will be performed.
- e. Platelets still decreasing in some, mean 117,000 range of 40,000 - 200,000 in Tongalap natives. No bleeding observed. Individuals under 100,000 being carefully observed.
- f. Leukocytes erratic, mean 5,250 range 2,800 - 13,000 no oral lesions.
- g. Therapy has been only as indicated clinically. No prophylaxis at all. I think we've learned a lot from the group.
- h. None of the Tongalap women delivered or aborted. One Uterik woman had normal baby.
- i. Blood in Americans still show leukopenia and thrombopenia but of moderate degree.
- j. Believe that the lowest values on Americans and natives will be next week.

In general I believe we've been very lucky and pretty close to the region of serious radiation injury as defined by you. I believe about another 50 r would have been critical.

Still hope to be back before 1 May.

Sincerely

E. P. Cronkite

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