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BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY  
ASSOCIATED UNIVERSITIES, INC.

Upton, New York 11973

(516) 345- 3577

Medical Department

November 17, 1977

The Honorable Adrian Winkel  
High Commissioner  
Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands  
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950


Dear Mr. Winkel,

I was sorry I was not able to meet with you in September when you had to leave Saipan unexpectedly for Washington.

I am delighted about your plans for the increased subsidization of the Bikini diet. Mrs. Van Cleve sent me a copy of your plans along with lists of food supplements and proposed menus. It looks like this should greatly improve their nutritional status and hopefully will deter them from eating the local produce. I am having our dietician look it over in case she might have any suggestions. It would be great if we could improve the diet of the Marshallese in general, perhaps by making a greater variety of foods available to the outer islands on the field trip ships and by education. I understand you had two nutritionists go to Bikini and one of them a Marshallese lady, live with the people for a while to instruct them in ways to increase variety and wholesomeness of their diets. This sounds like an excellent approach. It might be a good idea for me to take this lady along on our medical survey in March-April, if she is willing, to evaluate the diets of the people at Rongelap and Utirik and perhaps advise them about ways to improve their diet. As you may know, diabetes is a serious problem in the Marshallese and about the only feasible treatment in the outer islands is dietary.

In the enclosed letter to Masao Kumangai I told about our new medical personnel we are getting into the program and our hopes to establish a laboratory trailer adjacent to the Ebeye Hospital. I was glad to hear about your plans for improving the hospital. Perhaps we may be able to find some surplus medical equipment here which would be useful in the hospital.

I also mentioned in the letter referred to above, the hope that we can at some time resolve the confusion surrounding PL-5-52 (C.O.M.) and the agreement reached between ERDA-TT, which are quite different. The Rongelap and Utirik people apparently consider this a very important law and probably to a great extent because of the per diem allowance.

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Enclosed for your information is a copy of a letter to me from the Bakal law firm with my answer, a letter from the Utirik people, and a news report from the Majuro paper referring to the visit of Japanese A-bomb victims to the Marshalls.


Hope I will have an opportunity to talk things over with you sometime.  
With best regards.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Conard, M.D.

RAC:gc

Enc.  
CC: Mrs. Ruth VanCleve  
Dr. Masao Kumangai  
Mr. Oscar DeBrum  
Dr. Ezra Riklon  
Dr. William Burr

  
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