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BIO-MED, DR CONARD
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November 28, 1973

Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands
 Department of Health Services
 ATTN: Dr. John Iaman
 District Director of Health Services
 Majuro, Marshall Islands 96960

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Gentlemen:

With reference to your inquiry to Dr. Knudson and the meeting at Majuro with Bill Streenan, Dr. Knudson, Dr. Riklon and yourself relative to the payment of costs for travel of the exposed Marshallese, the following sets out our understandings of the funding question:

1. My letter dated February 26, 1973 to the High Commissioner relates to this question and is quoted in part for your information - "If, as a result of the surveys and as determined by Dr. Conard, it becomes necessary to transport any of the surveyed Marshallese patients to the United States for further medical treatment, the AEC will fund and pay to the Trust Territory the costs of the patients travel and per diem (at the Trust Territory established rate) from their home island to Kwajalein, and their return from Kwajalein to their home island. These travel and per diem costs will also be allowed for an interpreter accompanying the patients. For the patient's and interpreter's trip from Kwajalein to the United States and return to Kwajalein, the AEC will fund for and provide all transportation, suitable clothing for the colder climate, food, lodging and miscellaneous travel expenses."
2. Also for your information the following is quoted in part from Dr. R. A. Conard's letter dated October 9, 1973 to Mr. Hemos Jilej, Secretary/Treasurer, Rongelap Fallout Survivors Association. "The people should not confuse B. N. L., responsibility with that of the Trust Territory with regard to per diem

OFFICE ▶	AdA	AdO <i>WKS</i>	DIR
SURNAME ▶	JAMiller <i>jm</i>	WKStreenan/idh	WBHills <i>WSP</i>
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payments of patients. At the present time the arrangement is for BNL to pay travel expenses to those patients going to the United States for special treatment such as to the thyroid patients. In order to help the Trust Territory doctors with regular medical care of the people our doctors will sometime recommend that certain people go to Ebeye or Majuro for treatment. The Trust Territory handles the expenses in those cases - not BNL. If we recommend that any of you go to the United States for special treatment you can be sure BNL will take care of your travel expenses."

Based on the above it is our position that if it is the decision of the AEC physician and yourself, the travel of the patient is related to the radiological exposure, the AEC will fulfill their responsibilities as outlined in the above quoted paragraph number 1. However, if it is determined that the travel is related to the regular medical care of the people, the TT is responsible for those expenses.

Hopefully the above mentioned meeting and this letter will clarify our position on the matter and the questions related to your Quarterly Report on PL-5-52, Section 5, will be resolved.

Very truly yours,

Original Signed by
W B. HILLS

William B. Hills
Director

OP-723

cc: Oscar DeBrum, TT
Dr. R. Conard, BNL
Dr. K. Knudson, TT
Roger Ray, AM/O, NV
Dr. J.L. Liverman, USAEC, Hqs.

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