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REVIEW OF MEDICAL SURVEY OF MARSHALLESE TWO YEARS
POST EXPOSURE TO FALLOUT RADIATION

SYMBOL: LSP:DG

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Our comments are as follows:

Page 6, footnote -- Did the infants' deaths occur among the Rongelap group or the control group? The footnote does not make this clear, since "these pregnancies" apparently refers both to the exposed Marshallese and to the control group. Also, can it be stated whether or not these deaths appeared to have any connection with the radiation exposure of the parents?

Page 6, reference to adult death -- Technically, this should not appear in this report, since the death occurred after the end of the reporting period. However, we see no objection to including the reference. The death has been public reported, and its omission from the report might raise questions among correspondents.

Page 9 - We are not qualified to determine the statistical significance of the differences in weight and height between the exposed children and the control group. However, considering the normal variations among children, nine exposed children and nine controls seems a very small number on which to base even "an indication of trend." The material on this page could be used as a basis for newspaper headlines to the effect that "Radiation Stunts Marshallese Children." We recommend careful consideration of whether the data are adequate to support the discussion on page 9.

Page 36, last sentence, continuing to page 37 -- This sentence states that "The cause of death could not be directly correlated with radiation effects." Does this mean that there was an indirect correlation? If not, we suggest that the sentence be omitted.

With these comments taken into account, the Division of Information Services has no objection to issuance of the report. If you obtain reprints, we should like to have about 25 copies.

The report is returned herewith.

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