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Letter re possible L.K. ip

SURVEY JH 6/19

Office of Territorial Affairs

 5011971

Marsh

JUN 15 1979

Mr. Anton DeBrun
Secretary of Foreign Affairs
Government of the Marshall Islands
Majuro, Marshall Islands 96960

Dear Mr. DeBrun:

I regret that our schedules this past week did not permit a meeting to discuss the matter of the proposed medical survey of the people of Likiep Atoll, which you raised at the May 16, 1979, meeting with Department of Energy officials, officials of this Department, and representatives of other agencies.

I do want you to know that we have been conferring with the Department of Energy on this matter. Both of our Departments have been waiting, to some extent, for the return of Dr. Hugh Pratt from the Marshall since we believe that he is in the best position to advise on the composition of a medical team and on other aspects of what should be included in an examination. It is my understanding that he is returning to New York this weekend and we will be conferring with him early next week.

At this point, I cannot give you a precise answer as to timing. There may be considerable advantage in tying in such a survey with the next quarterly visit of the Brookhaven team which would be in September. I realize that you have indicated that the Marshall Islands Government could assist with logistic support, but a local field trip ship might not have the laboratory or other medical equipment that the Department of Energy ship might have available.

It will take time also to assemble a team since its members must plan well in advance of any visit. It would be expected that some medical team members would come from private hospitals and non-government institutions. I would assume that this type of makeup of a medical team would be the kind you would desire.

Please be assured that, while I cannot give you a definite reply today as to exact timing or to the makeup of any medical team, I can assure you that for our part, we will push forward full steam ahead. It is anticipated that the Department of Energy will do likewise, and we will be in constant contact with that organization.

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I shall keep you regularly and fully informed.

Sincerely yours,

RUTH G. VAN CLEVE
Mrs. Ruth G. Van Cleve
Director
Office of Territorial Affairs

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