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BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY

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Memo to D. Marks Dept. _____

Sid Here is a copy of the Summary report of the survey - also a letter I wrote to Ataji Balas.

In view of the uncertainties about PL-5-52 I suggest you get your reports, letters etc. together on the subject since de Young will probably want to look into the matter with you. I am sending two copies of these enclosures also.

from _____ Dept. Bob Casper

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BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY
ASSOCIATED UNIVERSITIES, INC., UPTON, L.I., N.Y. 11973

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

TELEPHONE: (516) 345-3577

June 19, 1975

Mr. Oscar DeBrum
District Administrator
Marshall Island District
TRUST TERRITORY PACIFIC ISLANDS
Majuro, Marshall Islands 96960

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Dear Oscar:

As a result of our trip to Bikini last April I have several suggestions of which Murph Ownby may have relayed to you.

First of all I was concerned that the people living on Bikini were short on vitamins and some other nutriments due largely to the absence of fresh fruits and vegetables. I recommend that the Health Aide routinely distribute multivitamins tablets to the population there. This is particularly important for the children. Would it be possible for your ship to bring coconuts, pandanus and breadfruit from other atolls to supplement the Bikini diet?

Second you will remember the Ad Hoc Committee recommended a calcium supplement to the diet of the Bikinians. This is presumed to reduce the absorption of radioactive strontium. We have looked into this and believe that powdered milk is the least expensive and most feasible source of calcium. It is true that some of the Marshallese people have some degree of intolerance for milk. We found on Rongelap among 10 children tested 3-4 had mild to moderate abdominal symptoms from milk but we do not believe this is severe enough to hinder absorption of adequate amounts. Even though pandanus and other sources of ^{90}Sr are not available yet and we have seen only very low strontium levels in the people. I believe we should at this time begin supplementing the diet of the Bikinians with powdered milk so that they can learn to like it and use it in various food and drink preparations. In addition it is an excellent source of protein.

I noted that each family unit was responsible for gathering laboriously by hand clean coral for their yards. I suggest that some mechanical means of screening larger amounts of coral be done by the builders. This would allow for additional thickness of coral around the houses which would further reduce gamma radiation. I was worried about the water situation on Bikini, it was true that when we were there it was near the end of the dry season, but there was hardly enough water (we were told) for the people even using all of the cisterns of the un-

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Mr. Oscar DeBrum

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occupied houses. One problem was that many of the cisterns leaked. Jeremiah, the Health Aide was short on some drugs and we were able to leave him a supply.

I hope things are going well with the latest Bikini survey and that progress can be made in getting the people back.

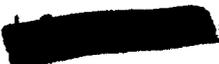
With best regards.

Sincerely,



Robert A. Conard, M.D.

RAC:im
CC: E.E. Johnson
J. Iaman
Dept of Interior
DBER, ERDA

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