

UNITED STATES
ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION
NEVADA OPERATIONS OFFICE
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LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89114

January 23, 1976

James L. Liverman, Director
Division of Biomedical and
Environmental Research, HQ

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS, BIKINI

Enclosed is a copy of a letter to me from Oscar de Brum, District Administrator of the Marshall Islands with, in turn, an enclosed memorandum to Mr. de Brum from his representative at Bikini. Mr. de Brum requests that the people resident at Bikini be included in Dr. Conard's annual surveys. The next such survey is presently scheduled for mid-April, 1976. In view of the pending Bikini lawsuit and of recent allegations and misunderstandings regarding Dr. Conard's Marshall Islands activities, I believe that this request merits careful staff attention.

As set forth in my memorandum to you of October 1, 1975, Subject: Brookhaven Program at Bikini, we have for some time had to deal with a pervasive misunderstanding of the purpose and reasons which underly the medical program. From the November 21 memorandum, Acting Distad Rep. to District Administrator (enclosure), it appears that this misunderstanding clearly persists. Note that the writer refers to "periodical checkup" and "medical examinations" as the only means of preventing hazards to health, among those resident at Bikini. He also attributes to Dr. Kotrady a statement regarding the "necessity to visit Bikini".

I read the fourth paragraph of Bima Akeke's memorandum to Distad de Brum to say that the people at Bikini (as distinguished from the people of Bikini) are unanimous in their request for medical examinations. From personal observation, I am aware that these people are:

- 1 - apprehensive about possible radiation effects due to their residence at Bikini;

and



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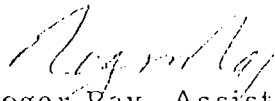
- 2 - badly in need of general medical care, apart entirely from any real or imagined radiation exposure.

In the past, wherever the Brookhaven medical team has visited it has, on a purely humanitarian basis, attempted to look after the general condition of health of the population - including even those who have had no exposure whatsoever. Should this humanitarian service again be extended to the Bikini people, I recommend that it be made clear to the District Administrator and through him to the counsel for the people of Bikini and the Bikini people themselves, that the program is just that: a voluntary humanitarian service which is being provided at the request of the concerned individuals. We should also take this opportunity to explain the distinction between medical examinations and bio-assay procedures.

Dr. Conard informs me that he would be willing to extend his Spring 1976 visit to include a "sick call" visit to Bikini provided he is invited to do so by the people themselves. I strongly recommend that every effort be made to do so, subject of course, to concurrence of the Office of General Counsel.

NV is prepared to support this activity with existing resources and to assist with the accompanying information program.

A copy of my interim reply to Mr. de Brum is enclosed. I will coordinate a subsequent reply with your staff.


Roger Ray, Assistant Manager
for Environment & Safety

Enclosures:

1. Ltr., Distad de Brum/Ray,
dtd 1-14-76, w/encl.
2. Ltr., Ray/Distad de Brum
dtd 1-22-76

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-3-

cc w/encls:

Dr. S. Marks, DBER, HQ

Dr. R. A. Conard, BNL

Upton, New York

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