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April 17, 1954

Capt. Wilbur E. Kellum
Commanding Officer
Naval Medical Research Institute
Bethesda 14, Maryland

Dear Capt. Kellum:

The special medical team under the direction of Cdr. Eugene P. Cronkite, which has been responsible for the medical care and study of the persons exposed in the March 1, 1954 fallout in the Marshall Islands, has carried on its work in a faultless manner. Not only have the health and welfare of the people been secured but invaluable scientific data have been acquired. Without the years of prior planning and research activities which the Naval Medical Research Institute and the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery have carried on, it would have been impossible to meet this emergency adequately in the time which was available. Through your farsighted action, it was possible to bring together the one group of medical scientists accustomed to meeting these problems both in the laboratory and in the field into an operational unit in a matter of hours. We are deeply appreciative of your strong support to the Joint Task Force and the Atomic Energy Commission.

Sincerely yours,

John C. Hughes, M.D.
Director
Division of Biology and Medicine

cc: Rear Admiral H. Lamont Pugh
The Surgeon General
The Department of Navy

cc: Chairman Strauss
cc: General Manager

Access #
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326-78
Box 3
file = NMB-B

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JOHN C. HUGHES/ccc

OFFICE ▶	DIRECTOR B&M			
SURNAME ▶	JCH		MILITARY RESEARCH & APPL.	7-5
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