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Congressman Balos' Questions of
Dr. Conard

This is a follow-up of our brief discussion of this on 7 October. I have serious reservations as to whether the 4 October letter answering these questions should be sent out on Brookhaven National Laboratory stationery and whether Dr. Conard should be the signer of the letter. I have nothing but confidence and admiration for the excellent job that Dr. Conard has done in leading the study of the Marshallese. The problems are now becoming not medical or scientific but international politics. I personally believe and am stating for the record that these questions should be answered by someone within the Government, obviously in consultation with Dr. Conard. The entire problem, I believe, is being blown up into one of political controversy that will be used against the United States and its management of the Trust Territory, and in particular, the Marshallese who were exposed to fallout radiation. In my opinion, this entire subject is rapidly becoming an affair of State; if it is not already such.

Since dollars, power politics within the Trust Territory, and political motives are behind Congressman Balos' questions, I believe it is inappropriate for these to be answered by Dr. Conard alone. I have serious misgivings about the manner in which this issue is being handled and would be much happier if the questions were directed to Washington and answered by them in collaboration with Dr. Conard.

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cc: Dr. Conard

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