

BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY
ASSOCIATED UNIVERSITIES, INC.

UPTON, L. I., N. Y.

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REFER: *R*

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August 20, 1959

Mr. Maynard Nease
District Administrator
Majuro District
Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands
Majuro, Marshall Islands

REPOSITORY WASHINGTON NATIONAL
COLLECTION 32681-6 RECORDS CENTER
BOX No. 1
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Dear Maynard:

I am writing this letter to you, Dr. Macdonald and Dr. Hicking. As a result of recent meetings in New York and Washington with Mr. Nucker, I would like to summarize some of the discussions of the various aspects of the situation on Rongelap as related to our medical surveys. In the first place, I told Mr. Nucker I certainly sympathize with you on the problems of rehabilitation of the Rongelapese and appreciate your feelings about limitation and curtailment of survey groups going to Rongelap at the present time. Mr. Nucker indicated that if we could hold off the next regular annual medical survey, following this we could probably carry on as before. He agreed, however, that we should carry out limited interim procedures that were considered absolutely necessary and suggested that I work out the details with you, Dr. Macdonald and Dr. Hicking. Mr. Nucker agreed with me that it would be most desirable to have greater participation of Trust Territory medical personnel in these examinations of the Rongelap people for radiation effects and indicated he would be pleased to have either Dr. Macdonald or Dr. Conover participate.

In view of the above, if agreeable, I would like to visit you at Rongelap for a few days about the middle of November to discuss the situation and arrangements for necessary interim procedures. Perhaps at that time I could also meet with the medical people and others interested to present the latest medical data on the Rongelap people.

I am enclosing a copy of a memorandum I wrote to Dr. Farr, our Medical Director, some time ago in which I expressed my opinions on the need for future medical surveys of the Rongelap people. I think you will agree with me that we mutually have a tremendous responsibility with respect to the health of these people and that if we fall short in our responsibilities, we will be open to criticism from people all over the world. A tremendous number of people are following the progress of the Rongelapese and too many people in "the other camp" would welcome the opportunity to criticize the United States.

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Mr. Maynard Nease

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If the suggested date of my visit is not convenient with you, Dr. Macdonald or Dr. Hicking, please let me know at your earliest opportunity since I am initiating arrangements for the trip right away.

My warmest regards to all of you. I am looking forward to seeing you in November.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Conrad, M. D.

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