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Dr. Aliya H. ...
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 U.S. Atomic Energy Commission
 1901 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
 Washington, D.C.

Dear Aliya:

During my recent visit with you in Washington last month, you mentioned that activity levels in the water at Rongelap were higher in 1956 than the levels reported in your earlier visits. Ed has looked up the data for you.

The data clearly seem to indicate that the increase noted in the 1956 samples is due to the recontamination of Rongelap following the 1954 weapons tests. The decay of the newly introduced radionuclides is such that it will soon be insignificant in the samples collected after the 1954 series.

The decay of activity in the particulate matter and the filtrate of the water sample collected at Rongelap was followed. Although a precise evaluation of the half-life immediately after August 1954 was between 20 and 40 days, indicating the presence of short-life radionuclides. The counts were compared to those found in the 1954 series as follows:

Sample Type	Collection Date	Counting Date	July '56	Jan. '57
Cistern water particles	6/24/56	6/25/56	220±7	91±10
Cistern water filtrate	6/24/56	6/25/56	210±7 (220±10)	64±80
Lagoon water particles	6/24/56	6/25/56	14±2	24±9
Lagoon water filtrate	6/24/56	6/25/56	140±10 (150±10)	240±105

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Luambi Smolder
 Director