

BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY
ASSOCIATED UNIVERSITIES, INC.

UPTON, L. I., N. Y.
TEL. YAPHANK 4-6262

REFER:

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May 25, 1961

Capt. Gordon Smith
USN Commanding Officer
Naval Support Activity
Pacific Missile Range Facility
Navy 824, c/o PPO
San Francisco, California

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Dear Capt. Smith:

The purpose of my letter is twofold. First, I would like to thank you for your help in carrying out our recent medical survey at Rongelap. Your assistance in these surveys is greatly appreciated by those of us carrying out the survey, as well as the Atomic Energy Commission. I was sorry I did not have an opportunity to thank you personally while at Kwajalein but you were indisposed while I was there. Hope that you have recovered from your attack of bronchitis.

My second reason for writing is in regard to our desire of maintaining as close contact as possible with the Rongelap people during the intervals between the annual surveys and the Trust Territory field trips, in order that medical matters of importance may be closely followed. You will remember that I had discussed this with you previously. It would be greatly appreciated if you could arrange for a monthly plane trip to Rongelap, so that Dr. Ezra Riklon (Trust Territory medical practitioner at Ebeye) would have the opportunity of checking up on the situation at Rongelap at such times. Dr. S. H. Shippey at the Kwajalein Hospital has suggested that he would be willing, when possible, to send one of their doctors along, if they could be spared from their duties at such time. A routine field trip by the Trust Territory ship goes to Rongelap about every 3 months with Dr. Riklon thus no flight would be necessary for the month of the field trip. You have been most obliging in arranging Navy flights to Rongelap to evacuate medical emergency cases, and I hope this request will not impose too great an additional burden. I feel sure that Mr. William White would be willing to talk this over with you and keep in contact with you about arrangements for the flight.

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Your help in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

RAC:ag

R. A. Conard, M. D.
Medical Research Center

cc: Dr. C. L. Dunham, Dir., Div. of Biol. & Med. (AEC), Washington
Mr. Wm. White, Asst. to High Commissioner, Trust Territory
of the Pacific Islands
Dr. H. E. Macdonald, Div. of Public Health, Trust Territory
Dr. L. E. Farr, Director, Medical Research Center
Dr. S. H. Shippey, Texas Transport Co. Hospital, Kwajalein

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