

## BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Memo to Dr. CHE

Subject Medical Studies of the Marshall Islands Accidentally Exposed to Fallout (RPS No. 000032)

I would like you to consider preparing a reevaluation of the research character of subject program, and, if concurred in ~~the~~ same, ~~to~~ to have this program transferred back into OHER/JHAPD.

I would say that it is more-or-less an article of faith that any human case of overexposure to external radiation or radioactive materials becomes a case for research, simply because our knowledge of radiation effects in human subjects is woefully lacking. In this respect, numbers don't enter into the decision whether or not medical follow-up/evaluation/treatment (if necessary) represents research or "simple" medical care. In other words, epidemiologic considerations are not the only factor in determining the scientific research character, such as in the case of large-populations exposed to low-level radiation.

In the case of the conglomerate of activities, loosely known as the Marshall Islands (M.I.) program, there is no question that some of these activities have a ~~research~~ service, rather than a research character. The medical part, however, i.e., the part that concerns the Marshallese exposed to fallout radiation on March 2, 1954, and covering ~~only~~ persons inhabiting Ailingine, Ujae, and Rongelap at that time, plus an equally large group acting as controls (altogether about 600 people)

~~Project 000032~~, PASO

I know (and understand quite well!) that Dr. Penick is extremely reluctant to have us involved in professional matters such as the operation of ships, general ~~and~~ health care activities (related or unrelated to the Boston bill), survey type activities, etc. I believe we can keep these matters outside our mission by stipulating that all service support related to The Medical Stroke Program 000032 shall be the responsibility of ~~the MIP Program Manager~~, and that medical priority matters related to the MIP, but unrelated to project 000032, shall be the responsibility of ASEI.