

March 20, 1979

LIVINGSTON COLLEGE • GRADUATE PROGRAM IN ANTHROPOLOGY  
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Dr. Robert A. Conard  
Medical Building  
Brookhaven National Laboratory  
Upton, New York 11973


Dear Dr. Conard,

I have been asked to chair a symposium for the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in San Francisco during January of 1980, and I would like to cordially extend an invitation for you to participate in that symposium.

The title of the symposium is "Ethno-Epidemiology: The Marshall Islanders Twenty-Five Years After Exposure to Radiation," and since you have personally conducted the radiological surveys in the Marshalls, it seems only appropriate that you attend the symposium.

The purpose of the symposium will be to examine the short and long-term effects of radioactive fallout (especially in relation to the radioiodines) on the Marshallese, and in particular, the recent discovery of biochemical hypothyroidism without clinical evidence of the disease in the Rongelap population (as indicated in your "Twenty-Two Year Report"). The symposium will also focus on the numerous problems you have encountered over the years concerning data collection in this unique and isolated population, as well as the problems associated with interpretation of the Marshalls data. Additionally, the panel will address the ways in which the fallout has affected the ecology and the socio-cultural domains of the Islanders.

In addition to yourself, I have invited other experts in the field of radiation science to participate in the symposium, and they include: Dr. Frank von Hippel, a physicist from the Department of Environmental Sciences at Princeton University; Dr. Helen Caldicott, a pediatrician from Boston Children's Hospital who specializes in nuclear radiation; Dr. John Gofman, a chemist at the UC Lawrence Radiation Laboratory who specializes in nuclear radiation; and Dr. Konrad Kotrady from the University of Utah Medical School who has firsthand experience with the Marshallese. I have also invited an anthropologist--Dr. Robert Kiste from the University of Hawaii--who specializes in the

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Marshall Islands, to provide the symposium with background ethnographic information about Marshallese society and culture.

In the event that you would be unable to attend the symposium (which is scheduled for January 3-8, 1980), would you please consider sending an alternate representative from Brookhaven?


I think such a symposium would be extremely relevant and stimulating, and it promises to enhance our knowledge and understanding of the continuing enigmas associated with nuclear radiation and its manifestations.

I do hope that you will be able to attend, and look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely yours,

*Glenn H. Alcalay*

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