

FROM THE HONOLULU ADVERTISER ----- NOVEMBER 3, 1965

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 BOX No. 1228, "ERDA # 3"
BIO-MED Dr Conard
 FOLDER 6/1964 thru 12/1965

82 new thyroid cases reported on 'fallout' Isle

WASHINGTON (AP) — A government doctor says some natives in the Marshall Islands are beginning to show thyroid gland damage from an accidental dropping of radioactive fallout during an American hydrogen bomb test.

Dr. Robert Conard told the Washington Post there also is evidence that fallout damage to the thyroid gland may be causing an observed stunting of growth among children subjected to the drenching in March, 1954.

Conard is the leader of a medical survey team that commutes between Brookhaven National Laboratory on Long Island and Rongelap Island in the Marshall's. He is in charge of treating the Islanders for thyroid damage.

The finding is viewed as meaning that estimates of the hazard from short-lived radioactive debris will have to be revised upward. This is the kind of fallout—such as radioactive iodine—which persons near blast areas may absorb through food and drink.

The Post said the medical team's most recent report to the Atomic Energy Commission is being circulated this week to members of the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy.

Among other things, it was reported, the study discloses that 10 new cases of thyroid abnormalities were found between March and October among 82 Rongelap natives exposed to fallout in March, 1954. Six other natives previously showed gland abnormalities. At least one abnormality turned out to be a cancer of the thyroid gland.

The Rongelap findings followed last week's report that fallout from the hydrogen bomb test in Utah and Ari-