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2-3 THE PLAIN DEALER, TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 1974

3 Marshall Islanders arrive here for radiation growth removal

Two women and a man from Rongelap, one of the Marshall Islands in the Pacific Ocean, arrived here yesterday for treatment of a condition caused by exposure to hydrogen bomb fallout.

They are and were exposed even though he was in his mother's womb 36 years ago when the United States exploded the test bomb 125 miles away from the Marshalls.

The three must undergo surgery for removal of thyroid gland nodules caused by radiation exposure.

They came to Cleveland for the surgery because Dr. Brian Debbins, associate director of surgery at the hospital, is one of the few surgeons in the country who can do the first to come. Two dozen of their relatives and

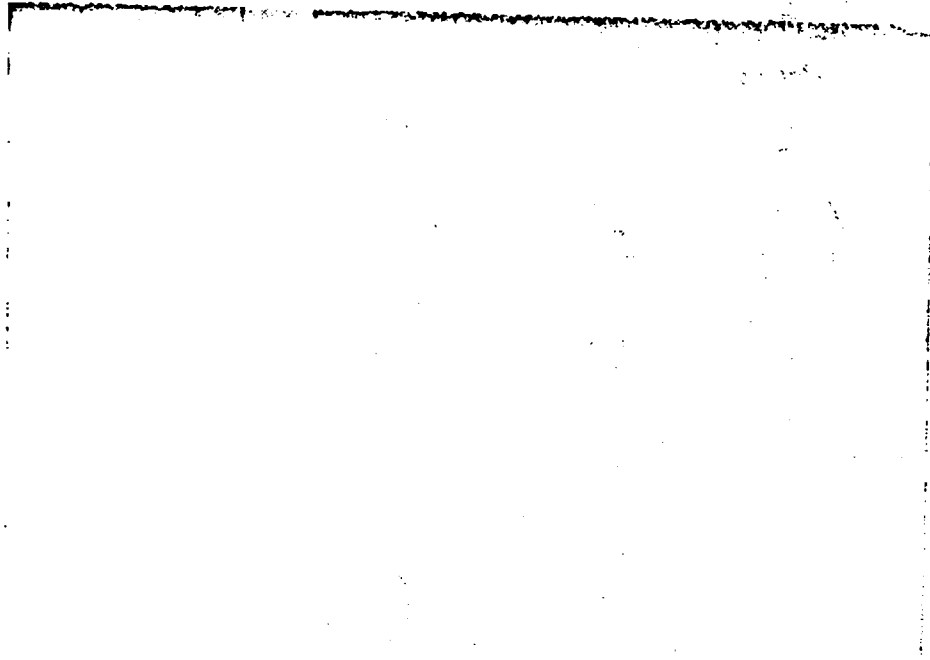
neighbors have preceded them.

The United States is paying for the trip. Despite the circumstances, the visit is quite an experience for the victims. One woman who came last year was so fascinated by American women's undergarments, she took them home.

Dr. Robert Conard, traveling companion and physician for the Marshall Island residents, said the three making the trip this time get their first view of television. He noted that a highlight of their hospital stay is the television in each room.

Dr. Conard said that he has decades' experience with residents of Rongelap. They have yearly physicals.

The two women will undergo the surgery today. The man will have the operation tomorrow. The operation for the woman is 30 minutes. The man's range in time from



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Catching a view of Cleveland, Ohio, entering Cleveland Metropolitan General Hospital are: Robert Conard.

a patient to Cleveland are always multiple. Dr. Conard said that the fallout occurred. 25 have not had the operation. Usual incidence of thyroid abnormalities is about 4% of a population.

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