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Department of Energy  
Pacific Area Support Office  
P. O. Box 29939  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96820

November 8, 1982

Roger Ray, Deputy for Pacific Operations, NV  
William J. Stanley, Director, PASO

PRIVACY ACT MATERIAL REMOVED

TRIP REPORT - BNL MEDICAL MISSION - OCT/NOV 1982

"Boycott" by Rongelap People

On Friday evening, the perfunctory meeting was held on Ebeye to introduce the medical team and to go over the work schedule. Only about 10 Rongelap and Utirik people attended. Some of the more outspoken people had not yet returned to Ebeye from Washington and the meeting was short and uneventful.

Early the next morning (Saturday, October 23, the first day of work at Ebeye) I was told the RMI Minister of Health, \_\_\_\_\_ also a Rongelap exposed person, who was TDY on Kwajalein, held his own meeting right after ours. The result was a decision that the Rongelap parents would not bring their children in to see the doctors, because they did not like our program, or words to that effect.

I took a small boat with Reynold deBrum from Ebeye back to Kwajalein to visit \_\_\_\_\_ at his quarters. I told him I didn't come to argue but rather to find out what the complaints were (are) which led to this decision.

He pointed out the decision was his. The complaints from some of his people are:

1. They don't like the policy of referring only "radiation related" people for medical treatment outside of the Marshalls.
2. They don't like our "method of calling people from other outer islands to Majuro for examinations".
3. They feel as "victims" that the U.S. should fully take care of all the people, especially the children which we won't take responsibility for as to primary medical care.

He also stated that all our policy was good for was to use his people for "scientific purposes".

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I addressed each point but as I expected, to no avail. I pointed out that this particular trip was almost exclusively for children, not radiation related, and a good faith response to the 1977 agreement to augment TTPI (RMI) health services. He said he "never had time to read that agreement". Also that this boycott should essentially mean nothing except perhaps to children who might be ill and as yet undiagnosed. He responded that his decision was already made and he couldn't change it.

I pointed out in rather strong terms that during my stay with DOE I witnessed a good faith attempt to help the people and that I took exception to his statement as to our using his people for "scientific purposes". I told him I had heard the guinea pig business for years and maybe it was fashionable to spout off like that at the UN, but it simply was not true. The dentist who worked 13 hours a day wasn't saving teeth for "scientific purposes" and the lives that have been saved by our doctors are not for science.

He said he was sorry we disagreed but his feelings were his feelings. I told him we both had to search our consciences on these matters and that mine was clear and I wondered if he could say the same thing.

I tried to leave on a positive note by wishing our respective countries success at the bargaining table, whereupon we could put these differences behind us and work together. He dismissed those statements as "something we should worry about later".

That work day, 18 children visited the team, 3 of whom were from Rongelap.

The boycott was carried on for the remainder of the Ebeye work period.

A Marshallese person told me that a second meeting with the Rongelap community, Minister \_\_\_\_\_ told them that they would use the boycott as ammunition for their future negotiations with the U.S.

On Majuro we were informed that \_\_\_\_\_ had contacted the Rongelap community and advised against seeing the BNL medical team.

I visited with the Chief Secretary and Senator Donal Mathew from Utirik to inform them of the problem. Mathew said he didn't support a boycott.

#### Japanese Media - Asashi NBC

On Monday November 1, Messrs. Toyosaki and Uematsu presented themselves with the attached letter from the Acting President which gave RMI sanction and support to the Japanese media mission. They also had the attached TWX which detailed their understanding of DOE/BNL participation. They made it clear that their only focus would be on medical treatment for radiation victims. I gave them a briefing of our overall program and explained the

nature of the current mission (pediatrics - not radiation related). It was reaffirmed that RMI would have to secure written permission from any Marshallese examinee before we would allow filming. This was the only "precondition" and we would cooperate in every way. I introduced them to Bill Adams and had them bring 2 technicians aboard to familiarize themselves with the facilities.

I suggested we meet the next day when work was well in progress, at which time we would be better able to identify candidates for inclusion in their documentary.

I then visited Chief Secretary deBrum to assure him of our complete willingness to cooperate. He seemed pleased, as he agreed we should all be open and above board.

I visited Dr. Helkena to pledge our cooperation and affirm our position that we wanted his designee present at the time of the filming and to obtain written concurrence from the Marshallese patients involved. The Japanese media were with Dr. Helkena during this conversation, as was Chief of Staff Dr. Aen and the new hospital administrator. All was cordial.

Later, on board Liktanur I asked a Utirik exposed person who had not been examined in March 1982 if he was interested in being the subject of the documentary. I told him:

1. What they wanted.
2. That his government endorsed it.
3. That I was in no way requesting him to do it, but just wanted to see if he had any interest and if so he could get in touch with RMI Health Services.

He thought it over very carefully, then said "I came to see the BNL doctors who take care of me, not Japanese TV people".

I decided then and there to gather the names of those few adults who were candidates for examination during this mission and give them to RMI Health Services to contact and obtain permission if they could. I wanted to avoid our active or even benign involvement in soliciting people. The media people were informed of this decision.

They requested an interview with Dr. Adams. We agreed to this but I advised we would need the questions, written, in advance to prepare. They agreed to this.

At the same time \_\_\_\_\_ came aboard without invitation. He was accompanying the media crew and had recently returned from Japan. He is

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the brother of \_\_\_\_\_ and has been a bitter critic of the program and Dr. Conard for some years. He is unexposed. Earlier in the day he had tried to turn one family away from seeing the medical team. I asked him if we could help him to which he replied "I am with the Japanese". Since they were not coming aboard that day I essentially moved \_\_\_\_\_ off the boat. I told him I was rather surprised that he came aboard after trying to turn people away. He lied to me that he didn't say anything to anyone and that his actions were only his personal ones. Since there was no mission justification for having him aboard, and his presence was not helpful to us during the interview, he continued to be disinvited.

Asahi News conducted a filmed interview with Dr. Adams and me aboard ship on November 3. The ground rules I established were that we had to have the questions written and submitted to us in advance, and that there were to be no follow on questions. We received the questions 7 hours in advance of the interview and Dr. Adams and I organized our proposed replies (the questions and notes from the questions I answered are attached). I decided that we should address every question in spite of the fact that many were very "loaded". Dr. Adams was very apprehensive at first. I felt that had we ducked a question there was a reasonable probability the documentary would have contained a sentence like "Here are some questions the U.S. spokesman refused to answer".

All things considered the interview went very well. Dr. Adams did an excellent job in my view. I had off the record talks with Messrs Toyosaki and Uematsu and realistically believe we have done no more than perhaps "cut our losses". We will be lucky to get off with "60 Minutes Revisited".

To top it off I learned they were leaving the next evening on an RMI ship for Bikini, Rongelap, Utirik and Wotje for further material.

During the course of the day, another exposed person came aboard for examination and I immediately dispatched RMI Health Services who sent over a medex to secure permission from this person (Ronald Mathew, brother of Senator Donal Mathew of Utirik) to be photographed while being examined. He declined so the media team told me they would settle for general pediatrics photos if they secured permission. I asked for and received a verbal promise that they would not portray the person as exposed and would indeed acknowledge that this was part of a non-radiation related pediatrics mission.

The RMI Health Services obtained permission (attached) from Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_ to have her child photographed while being examined by Dr. Adams. They also photographed the laboratory area.

The media group then left for Bikini Atoll, Rongelap, Utirik and Wotje on the Micro Chief, to continue their coverage.

The general conclusion I reached is that we made a good effort to portray the work of the U.S. Government but we will be very much outnumbered by critics and overwhelmed by the editor's cuts.

#### LLNL/DOE Equipment at Bikini

I asked for and received assurances from the Minister of Transportation, The Acting Chief Secretary, the Senator from Utirik (who accompanied the media people) and the crew of the Micro Chief, that they would not touch any of our equipment on Bikini or Enyu.

#### General Conclusions

1. The Rongelap Boycott was a "success" from the perverted point of view that many children did not see our doctors. Although the figures are not yet precise it appears we saw about 14 Rongelap children where we might have seen 100+ during a normal pediatrics mission. I did hear, however, that the President was angry at the decision and the Utirik and Bikini people and their elected leaders did not support the Rongelap Senator's position. I believe we have seen the last of this boycott as I think Senator Anjain knows he made a poor decision but he would have lost face to change in mid-stream.
2. The mission was otherwise very successful. BNL was extremely busy on Majuro and saw many referrals from the hospital.
3. The DOE Representative/Majuro, Reynold deBrum, is so valuable to the program that it is hard to easily explain. I feel his work should be further recognized by DOE and H&N. (I will elaborate separately).
4. The Captain and crew were superb. The Engineer, Monroe Whitman, when not repairing burned up generators or installing Reynold's radio equipment was able, through his HAM radio work to get me a link to Ponape so I could set up a charter aircraft flight for H&N. The cook, Cisco, did his best job to date.

#### Visit by U.S. Congressional and DOI Staff

I ran into Tom Dunmire at a restaurant in Majuro. He was heading up a staff group including Pat Krause of Rep. Burton's staff, Lori (last name unknown) from DOI, and Bill Robinson from Health and Human Services to tour the TTPI. I invited them to the ship and they came for breakfast on November 3. Dunmire seemed very concerned that the proposed Amendment 177 did not provide the womb to tomb medical care for the people specified in the Burton Bill. He didn't appear to want to hear my explanation as to why the \$30+ million for general medical care was in that document, nor did he want to draw a distinction between "exposed" people and the people, for example, of Enewetak.

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I strongly urged him to contact Roger Ray since he asked me for suggestions on whom he should talk to on this issue.

.. As I was leaving Kwajalein for Honolulu I was informed that Dunmire met with Minister Anjain who restated his gripes about treatment of the Rongelap people, and that we should expect a letter from Dunmire on the matter.

Miscellaneous

I effected a charter on PMA for the H&N pier repair work force for November 29, 1982 (Ponape time) from Ponape to Enewetak.



H. U. Brown  
Program Liaison Officer

OP-544:HUB

Attachments:

1. Questions by Asahi TV
2. HUB outline of answers to questions posed by Asahi TV
3. RMI (GMI) Ltr of support to Messrs Uematsu and Toyosaki
4. Telegram to Mr. Uematsu, Asahi TV
5. Mrs. Betwe's permission to photograph child
6. Copy of Asahi TV reporters cards

detect disease  
can't wait  
look for asymptomatic  
no distinction  
between normal  
and  
disease  
3 months  
Transmission  
in Marshall  
Islands  
Respiratory  
system  
(Wetzel)

4 A 1. What is the primary purpose of your physical examination?

2. Could you please tell us about your examination scale including number of people, days, costs.

3. We think that your physical examination would contribute to the Marshallese health condition. Could you please tell us some example, concretely?

many cases  
- Dental  
- postcard cases  
- Thyroid

B 4. Do you think that your physical examination are pleasure by the Marshallese?

dentist, etc. since dental  
old findings - see 2nd year  
new - see with  
with air, control

A 5. Among many findings of your recent examinations, are there anything characteristic in exposed Marshallese?

90 CAREFUL  
50 CKYORAGAN  
RUICEMAN  
6. Do you think, until now, how many people who affected physically by nuclear test in Marshall Is.?

86  
7/15/60  
15/16 c  
1/2

B 7. Recently, On Wotje, Likiep, Maloelap Atoll, We have learned that number of thyroid patient are increasing and some abnormal babies were born. Do you know about it? Do you think there are any effects of nuclear test?

1 B 8. We heard that many patients of Rongelap rejected your physical examination on Ebeye. What opinion do you have about their action?

- 1B 9. Some Marshallese who were examined said to us,  
"DOE do the physical examination only, DOE does  
not treat which we hope."  
And they also said, "DOE treat us like a guinea pig."  
How do you think about their opinion?  
2LLA
- A 10. Did you know that one boy who was born in Bikini, recently  
died of lymphoma cancer?  
We think that you checked up him.  
Do you think there are any effect of left radiation?  
Couldn't you expect to those illness?  
74B
- 1B 11. Now here, We have a picture of handicap boy.  
He is 4 years and he was born in small island  
on Kwajalein Atoll. Beside that small island,  
there is a German warship which was target of  
atomic test at Bikini in 1946.  
His father said that it was caused by the effects  
of the left radiation on that vessel.  
How do you think about it?  
3
- 14A 12. Someone says effects of nuclear test transfer to  
the young generation and children are being  
paid the debt of your nuclear test.  
What opinion do you have about it?

H. U. Brown outline of answers to questions posed by Asahi TV 11/2/82:

3. In addition to radiation related examinations, we also assist the Republic of the Marshall Islands Government in carrying out their general health care responsibilities. That is why we are here in the Marshall Islands, examining children and seeing patients referred to us by the Majuro hospital. A concrete example is the dental care we provide on Rongelap and Utirik. While there are hundreds of other examples, a recent one which comes to mind is a finding by the pediatric cardiologist working with our team. Because of her expertise she was able to diagnose a correctable heart defect in an Ebeye child. The child was referred to us by the Ebeye hospital.

This is outside the area of radiation related problems, but of course gives us very great satisfaction in being able to help.

4. All the examinations are voluntary. Judging from the number of people who wish to be seen by our doctors, it then seems reasonable to assume that many people attach great importance to the examinations. We have been able to diagnose and treat many people in full cooperation with the Marshall Islands Government.
7. Yes, we are generally aware of this situation. It has been the subject of discussion between the U.S. and Marshall Islands Government.

Whether or not any abnormalities found were the results of nuclear testing is unknown to us. An epidemiological survey would probably serve as a better basis for discussion of this matter.

8. It is true that many Rongelap people on Ebeye did not bring their children to see the Brookhaven medical team last week. We were told that this was a decision made to gain some sort of political leverage for the Rongelap people in their discussion on the Compact of Free Association with the United States. We are not politicians and cannot comment on this political decision, except to say that because of that decision many children were denied contact with a very highly qualified pediatrician. I would like also to note that the Utirik children came to see the doctors in great numbers and here in Majuro many Rongelap children have also come for examination.
9. We, of course, have heard these same words from a very few individuals for many years. In a program area as sensitive and emotional as this we expect certain misunderstandings to arise. But judging from the many people who came to see us, and the fact that we have treated many hundreds of people and saved some lives in the process, we are satisfied that a large majority of people appreciate our efforts. Naturally, the world's understanding of radiation effects is increased because of the findings derived from the Marshall Islands Program, but I strongly disagree that people are treated like guinea pigs. The U.S. Government has a strong and lasting commitment to the health

care of those Rongelap and Utirik people exposed during the 1954 accident. We are constantly striving for improvement as we carry out that mandate.

11. The U.S. Government has very thoroughly checked that ship, the Prinz Eugen, and found it to be no hazard to the health from a radiation point of view. The results of that study are readily available. Many hundreds of sport dives are made on that ship every year. I have made 4 dives on it myself.

I don't think it is necessary to comment further on this, except to say this is evidence of the great lack of understanding of radiation and its place in the world.





GOVERNMENT OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

MAJURO, MARSHALL ISLANDS 96960 · CABLE GOVMAR

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

C.M.138(82)

For Action

For Information

Minister of Health Services

SUBJECT: Support for Mr. Uematsu and Mr. Toyosaki

At its meeting on October 8, 1982 the Cabinet: agreed that the government will support Mr. Michio Uematsu, of TV Asahi National Broadcasting Co., of Japan, and Mr. Hiromitsu Toyosaki, in their mission to make a documentary report on the living conditions on certain atolls in the Marshall Islands that were affected as a result of U.S. nuclear testing; and

directed the Chief Secretary to provide the necessary assistance they may require.

*Amenta Matthew*

Amenta Matthew  
Clerk of the Cabinet

*Kessai Note*

Kessai Note  
Acting President

(Reference - C.P. 173(82))  
October 8, 1982

26 0432-03555 •  
T 2615 03555  
TO MR. UENATSU  
FROM NAKAGURA IN NY

10/26 E

DOE NO PHYSICAL EXAM. NI KANSHIYTE OK WOKYOKA GA TOREKASHITA.  
TADASHI JIUNIN KOJIN TO MARSHALL SEIEN NO KYOKA NO FUKOTO,  
DOE WA CHUTAI NI KANSHITE ISSAI NO CHUKAI NO SHITEKHRE AI,  
GENCHIDENO DOE NO REP. WA MR. HARRY U. BROWN (FROM THE HONOLULU  
PACIFIC AREA SUPPORT OFFICE AND THE SENIOR DOE REP. AT NAJURO)  
IJO NO 3-TEI NO TV ASAHI GA GENSHU SURUYOO NOTONERARETEINASU.  
NANO SANKOO MADENI BARBARA GA KURETA NEMHO NO SOETE OKINASU.

ACCORDING TO MR. ROGER RAY, DEPUTY FOR PACIFIC OPERATIONS, DEPARTMENT  
OF ENERGY NEVADA OPERATIONS:

DOE HAS NO OBJECTIONS TO HAVING ITS ACTIVITIES OBSERVED AND  
FILMED, AS LONG AS THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURES ARE CARRIED THROUGH  
BY TV ASAHI:

(1) WE (TV ASAHI) MUST OBTAIN THE CLEARANCE TO FILM THE PHYSICAL  
EXAM. AND ANY PERIPHERAL COVERAGE THROUGH THE MARSHALLS GOVT.,  
SPECIFICALLY, THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND MR. JETAN ANJAIN,  
ITS MINISTER.

(2) WE (TV ASAHI) DON'T ASK THE DOE REPRESENTATIVES ON NAJURO  
TO ACT AS INTERMEDIARIES IN OBTAINING CLEARANCE OR WAIVERS  
FROM INDIVIDUAL MARSHALLESE PARTICIPATING IN THE EXAM.  
MARSHALLESE GOVERNMENT SHOULD COORDINATE FOR US, NOT DOE REPS.

(3) THE DOE REPS WHO WE WILL BE IN CONTACT WITH DURING THE  
EXAM. ARE MR. HARRY U. BROWN, FROM HONOLULU PACIFIC AREA SUPPORT  
OFFICE AND THE SENIOR DOE REP. AT NAJURO, DR. ADAMS WILL  
SUPERVISE THE MEDICAL TEAM, MR. REYNOLD DEDRUM IS THE MARSHALL  
ISLANDS DOE REP., WHO IS ALSO A MARSHALLESE.

IJO DESU. NANO DOD NO HOONA HENJIRACFINO JOGTAI DESU. EISI. •

T 2615 03555  
ABOVE VIA VUI FROM ANDIGNY661269UN

26 0442-03555 •

T 2615 03555

REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS  
Department of Health Services  
Majuro, Marshall Islands

November 3, 1982

IJ LIKIT ELTAN PEIU NAN AO KOMFLIM TEAM IN KOMMAN TV IN JEN JAPAN  
EME REN BOK PIJA ILO IEN AN DOCTOR RO AN D.O.E. KAKILEN IO. PIJA IN  
AK FILM IN REJ KOMMANE ENAJ JEPBAL NAN KEIN KENONC AK KATAK KIN  
JORREN KO REJ WALOK NAN ARMIJ JEN RADIATION.

Neri Belue NOV-4-1982  
Dri Nanimij eo/Patient

Clasim 11/4/82  
Dri Kamol/Witness

H. Brown 11/4/82  
Dri Kamol/Witness

**TV Asahi**  
Asahi National Broadcasting Co., Ltd.

**MICHIO UEMATSU**  
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