



UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20545

AM

Mr. Stanley S. Carpenter
Director of Territorial Affairs
Office of the Secretary
U. S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Mr. Carpenter:

This is in response to your letter to Chairman Ray of May 23, 1973, requesting Atomic Energy Commission participation in the implementation of Public Law No. 5-52, recently enacted by the Congress of Micronesia to provide special medical treatment and transportation for certain inhabitants of the Marshall Islands District.

As you are aware, the Atomic Energy Commission has sponsored the services of medical and radiological survey teams in the Marshall Islands since 1954. These medical survey teams under the leadership of Dr. R. A. Conard of Brookhaven National Laboratory have conducted periodic health examinations and provided appropriate medical treatment to the inhabitants of Rongelap and Utirik. During the past year this activity was strengthened by the presence of a resident physician, Dr. Knud Knudsen who is funded by AEC. AEC is also considering the acquisition of a boat for the use of Dr. Knudsen for quarterly medical visits to Rongelap and Utirik and for other AEC-sponsored scientific activities in the Marshall Islands District. Further improvement of the effectiveness and frequency of the medical surveillance and extension to include the people of Eniwetok and Bikini upon their return to their native atolls are planned.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

5008554


Mr. Stanley S. Carpenter

- 2 -

AEC has the greatest sympathy for the people who suffered as a result of their exposure to the fallout from the March 1954 Bravo test and wishes to continue to support efforts to improve their medical care. Accordingly, AEC would welcome the opportunity to discuss with the Department of the Interior the matter of AEC participation in the funding of research-related services as they may be provided under Public Law No. 5-52.

Sincerely,

Clarence E. Larson
Commissioner

 5008555