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Congress of Micronesia

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July 30, 1976

Dr. Robert A. Conard
Medical Department
Brookhaven National Laboratory
Upton, New York 11973

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Dear Dr. Conard:

The purpose of this letter is to refer you to a letter dated July 9, 1976, from the people of Utirik to Mr. Roger Ray of ERDA at the Nevada Operations Office. We would also like to make reference to an earlier letter from Representative John Haglelgam to you following the March survey. To date he has not received a response. Furthermore, Congressman Balos' letter dated May 5, 1976 to you has not been answered. Consequently, we should like to pose some questions, and seek some clarifications with regard to the Rongelap-Utirik issue.

We would, therefore, appreciate learning of your responses to the Representatives who made the inquiries, and also what response to the Utirik letter has been sent by either you or by Mr. Roger Ray.

Furthermore, we have heard that people of Rongelap and Utirik have complained that it was our Committee which said that no "descendants" of exposed persons would receive I.D. cards. Public Law No. 5-52, as amended by P.L. No. 5-80, indicates that descendants are covered under the law. However, the benefits are accorded to the people under the TTPI-ERDA agreement. Those who would receive cards, would be those listed on the BNL roster. Furthermore, we recall that your position was that there was no reason to include descendants of exposed persons on the BNL roster for two reasons: 1) it was unlikely that any effects would be transmitted to subsequent generations, and 2) putting them on the roster and thus giving them I.D. cards would lead them to believe that they fell into the same dossage class as the exposed Rongelapese.

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Here, we should note that we assume a descendant of an exposed person would be placed on the roster should that person develop a disease which might be linked to radiation. We would like your reconfirmation of the above so that we might try to explain to the people involved.

We are taking the liberty of attaching a copy of our short report to members of the Congress of Micronesia. In this connection, we look forward to testifying on the legislation in the near future, and a response to this letter at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely yours,

Representative Ataji Balos
Acting Chairman

Representative John Hagelgam
Member

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