



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

401402

FD-3137

Dear Dr. Conard:

Thank you for your letter of July 8, 1975. I appreciate also your visit to me on June 26, 1975, to discuss the Bikini and Rongelap projects.

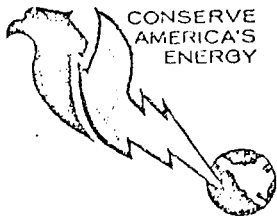
We are starting the preliminary work on the proposed Compensation Act for the Rongelap thyroid patients. Senator Borja's proposed bill deals mainly with the individuals who have had thyroid operations. As you noted, there are other individuals suffering from thyroid abnormalities who should be considered. It would be appreciated if you could provide us with information on these individuals and a rough estimate of what you would consider appropriate compensation. We do not propose to increase the total amount of the compensation but would reduce the amount proposed for the thyroid operation category to cover the new category.

I understand that you have been invited to the meeting in Livermore, California, early next month. John E. deYoung of our Office will be there and this will provide an opportunity to discuss the Rongelap matter.

Sincerely yours,

Emmett M. Rice, Acting
Director of Territorial Affairs

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