



BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY  
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MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

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November 22, 1972

REPOSITORY DOE/PASO  
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 BOX No. 1228, "ERDA #3"  
BIO-MED, DR. COMRAD  
 FOLDER 01 THRU 12/1972

The Honorable Edward Johnston  
 High Commissioner  
 Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands  
 Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

Dear Ed:

It was with deepest sorrow that I learned of the death of last week. At the time I was in Cleveland where the two Marshallese girls were undergoing thyroid surgery. I went immediately to Washington to be with the family and help with final arrangements. At the NIH Clinical Center, probably the best hospital in the world for the treatment of leukemia, was given the best known chemotherapeutic agents and everything possible was done for him. However, in spite of all this, pneumonia, complicating the leukemia, proved to be too much for him resulting in his death. I was sorry I was not able to leave with the family but Mr. William Scott, from this laboratory, who has worked with me on many surveys and knows the Rongelap people well, agreed to accompany the family to Rongelap for the funeral. Dr. Knudsen was already out there. I was happy that Peter Coleman was able to go also. I understand that after some difficulties in getting the remains to the islands, the funeral was finally held yesterday. It was good of you to arrange the sea plane.

I was at the Cleveland Metropolitan General Hospital for thyroid surgery on the two girls done by Dr. Brown Dobyns. The nodules were successfully removed. In one case ( ), benign adenomatous nodules were found, and in the other case ( ), a small papillary carcinoma was found. However, no metastases or lymph nodes were found. The prognosis in both cases is excellent. The girls had uneventful recoveries and by now should be on their way to Majuro. I am writing Dr. Iaman about follow-up care in these patients.

Assuming that the surveys are to continue, we would like to plan the next one for March to include examinations of all exposed and control Rongelap people. In view of the finding of the case of leukemia, the usual careful hematological examinations will include bone marrow study if indicated, and we also plan to carry out additional examinations of the blood on the Rongelap exposed people at six-month intervals.

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The Honorable Edward Johnston

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November 22, 1972

From what I have heard, I understand that the reports the medical observers who were with us in September, were favorable and this hopefully should clear the atmosphere.

I am greatly indebted to many people for their sympathetic assistance during these trying times. These include: you and your people in the Trust Territory; the doctors and social workers at NIH and Cleveland; the AEC in Washington; the AEC in Honolulu -- particularly Mr. William Streenan and his wife; Dr. Knudsen; Mr. Frank Granich and others at Kwajalein; the Department of Interior -- particularly Mr. DeYoung. I would particularly like to extend my sincere gratitude to the following Trust Territory personnel: Sebeo Shoniber for his help and compassionate sympathy for his friend for the sympathetic help of Martan Lacjohn with the bereaved family; for the able help of Ruth Harris with the two Marshallese patients; and for the help of John Iaman and Ezra Riklon at Majuro.

I sincerely hope that things will calm down and that we shall have smoother sailing from now on.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

*Bob*

Robert A. Conard, M. D.

RAC:ls

CC: Drs. Kumangai

J. Iaman

E. Riklon

Mr. Sebeo Shoniber

Martan Lacjohn

S. S. Carpenter-Dept. of Interior

Mrs. Ruth Harris

Dr. W. Burr, Jr.-AEC, Washington

Mr. Oscar DeBrum, District Administrator, Majuro

PRIVACY ACT MATERIAL REMOVED

*Bill -*

*I can't begin to tell you how much I appreciate all you and G. my dad to help during these difficult times. With warmest regards to you both -*

5013358

*Bob*