

OSITORY DOE/PASO  
LECTION DOE/NV  
No. 1228, "ERDA # 3"  
BIO-MED, DR. CONARD  
DER 07 thru 12/1969

PRIVACY ACT MATERIAL REMOVED

401995

BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY  
ASSOCIATED UNIVERSITIES, INC.  
UPTON, L. I., N. Y. 11973  
TEL. AREA CODE 516 YAPHANK 4-6262

REFER:

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

September 17 1969

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

Dear Mr. Johnson:

As per my dispatch the AEC expects to put out a release within a day or so concerning the status of the Marshallese cases here at Brookhaven National Laboratory. These 5 cases are of thyroid abnormalities, 4 Rongalapese and 1 Utirik case. Thyroid surgery was performed on all 5 cases by Dr. B. M. Dobyns at the Cleveland Metropolitan General Hospital. These cases are now back at Brookhaven recovering from surgery.

The results of surgery were as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Island</u>	<u>Surgical Procedure</u>	<u>Pathological Diagnosis</u>
	22	M	Rongelap	Partial Thyroidectomy	Adenomatous goiter, benign
	22	F	Rongelap	Partial Thyroidectomy	Adenomatous goiter, benign
	22	F	Rongelap	Complete Thyroidectomy	Papillary carcinoma, malignant
	36	F	Rongelap	Complete Thyroidectomy	Invasive adenoma, malignant
	34	F	Utirik	Hemi-thyroidectomy	Follicular carcinoma, malignant

These diagnoses have been confirmed by several thyroid experts. All of the patients are recovering satisfactorily from surgery with no serious complications. The prognosis in these cases is good.

The previous case of malignancy of the thyroid in a 40 year old Rongelap woman, operated upon several years ago, along with the 2 present additional Rongelap cases makes it seem quite likely that exposure to fallout was involved

5013388

PRIVACY ACT MATERIAL REMOVED

The Honorable Edward E. Johnston

-2-

September 17, 1969

in the etiology. On the other hand the malignancy noted in the Utirik woman could well be a spontaneous case not related to radiation exposure in view of the very low dose of radiation that the people on that island received. I might add parenthetically that this case may well increase some of the unrest in the Utirik people related to their not receiving any compensation money.

In view of these findings the forthcoming surveys of the Rongelap and Utirik people will be of particular importance with obvious emphasis on thyroid examinations. I will be writing you before long concerning detailed planning of the next survey.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Conard, M.D.

RAC:jr

cc: Mrs. E. P. Farrington  
Dr. John Totter  
Dr. William Peck  
Mr. William Bonnet ✓  
Dr. V. P. Bond  
Dr. E. P. Cronkite

5013389