

UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

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H. J. Peyton, Chief
Construction Branch
Engineering & Construction Division

TRIP REPORT - W. K. STREENAN TO MICRONESIA - OCTOBER 16 THROUGH
OCTOBER 30, 1970

The purpose of the trip was to accompany Dr. R. A. Conard of Brookhaven National Laboratory, to Hawaii and Micronesia and to assist him on making arrangements with the various organizations in the Pacific to support the forthcoming AEC Bio-Med Survey of the exposed Rongelap people. Dr. Conard heads a group of doctors and technicians which conducts an annual medical examination of the Marshallese people who were accidentally exposed to fallout radiation in 1954. The 1971 survey is scheduled to be conducted during the last half of February and the first three weeks of March 1971. Medical examinations will be performed on the islands of Rongelap, Utirik, Majuro and Ebeye. In addition, urine samples will be taken from the Bikini people living on the island of Kili.

Dr. Conard also wanted to examine a Rongelapesi girl named _____ now living on the island of Jaluit to ascertain if the girl needs immediate thyroid surgery. In case surgery is required, it is planned to send _____ to Tripler General Hospital in Honolulu where Dr. Dobyms of Cleveland would perform the operation. Dr. Conard had made tentative arrangements with the US Army in Washington to use the Tripler facilities.

Other items Conard wanted to discuss with the Trust Territory people were the inconvenience payment to the Utirik people resulting from the temporary movement away from their homes in 1954 and the hiring and payment of an individual to assist with the thyroid treatment of the exposed Rongelap people.

I departed Las Vegas at 7:30 a.m. October 16, and arrived in Honolulu at 12:30 p.m. and went to the AEC-PASO office where I met with Bill Hills and Joe Dryden and outlined the schedule and requirements for the survey and the support needed from Holmes & Narver, Pacific Test

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BIO-MED Dr. CONARD
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Division. Also discussed were items which Conard and I planned to discuss with representatives of the Trust Territory, US Army and Global Associates during our trip to Micronesia. I also advised Hills and Dryden that some assistance might be required of them for the admittance of an exposed Rongelapesi patient to Tripler Hospital.

Hills had made reservations at the Kuhio Hotel for us and provided a Government car for our use while in Honolulu. Airplane reservations and tickets were ready for continuation of our trip. I contacted Bob Law, Trust Territory Liaison Officer at Honolulu, and made him aware of our plans and schedule, and arranged for Conard and myself to meet with him prior to our leaving for Micronesia. Law indicated that as far as he knew the commercial air service within the Marshalls was not yet in operation. Law also stated he did not know if the patient had been brought to Majuro or if she was still on Jaluit.

Conard arrived in Honolulu at 9:30 p.m., Saturday October 17; I met him at the airport and then went on to the hotel.

Monday, October 19, discussions were held with Col. Reid of Tripler Hospital and Bob Law relative to the arrangement for surgery on the thyroid patient. Conard advised that after examination of the patient, a TWX would be sent to let them know if the arrangements for the surgery should be finalized or cancelled. Conard and I went to Hickam AFB where we departed Honolulu on MAC flight at 1:30 p.m. and arrived in Kwajalein at 5:30 p.m. That evening Conard and I met with Col. Don Miller, Commanding Officer, Kwajalein Missile Range; Bob Haley and Frank Robison of the US Army; Murph Ownby, T. T. representative on Kwajalein; and Frank Granich, Tom Hardeson and Gene Sims of Global Associates. We briefly discussed the purpose of our trip and the support items needed from the Army through Global Associates. Col. Miller advised they would continue to support the survey program and if any additional assistance were needed, we should contact him or Frank Granich and they would do whatever possible.

On October 20, Conard went to Ebeye to meet with the T. T. medical personnel and to see several of the exposed people now living on Ebeye. I remained on Kwajalein and met with Frank Granich and Murph Ownby to work out the schedule, transportation requirements, supplies, payment and other details for the forthcoming survey. Conard and I departed Kwajalein at 4:40 p.m. and arrived at Majuro at 5:30 p.m., October 21.

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On October 22, Conard and I met with Oscar DeBrum, T. T. District Administrator of the Marshall Islands, and Ray McKay, Assistant Distad. After the usual amenities we discussed the purpose of our visit. We also brought out that Dr. Ed Held of the University of Washington wanted to go to Rongelap at the same time Conard's team goes there. Oscar DeBrum advised the Marshall Islands District was in better shape transportation-wise. They could now schedule and furnish transportation for the survey. It was agreed the T. T. would schedule the "U Boat" to carry the equipment, medical kits, other supplies and the advance party to Rongelap. The T. T. would give our items first priority over other cargo. The "U Boat" could also accommodate Ed Held and two others who will take some bottom samples from the lagoon at Rongelap before they go on to Bikini. The T. T. will also arrange for the flights through a local aviation firm to take the doctors to Rongelap and Utirik. The T. T. will also schedule a ship, either the M. V. Cooke or the Yap Islander, to return the advance party and equipment to Kwajalein. Oscar DeBrum advised the patient had come from Jaluit to Majuro and was available for examination. Later that day Conard and I met with Dr.'s John Iman and Ezra Ricklon and discussed the hiring of one of their medically trained employees to be stationed on Rongelap and assist with the AEC thyroid program. The costs of the salary and expenses for this employee would be reimbursed to the T. T. by the AEC. John and Ezra approved of this idea but stated they could only spare a Senior Health Aide from their organization. Conard indicated that he hoped he could get a man with a more medical training, but if John and Ezra would recommend the man, Conard would accept him. John Iman said he would bring three qualified Senior Health Aides to the hotel and Conard could interview them and make his choice of the one to go to Rongelap.

Arrangements were made for Conard to examine the thyroid patient at the high school. The examination determined that did not require immediate surgery; however, she would be reexamined in February and the decision made at that time, if an operation is necessary.

October 23 was a holiday in Micronesia; however, we were able to send a radio message to Kwajalein requesting they advise the interested individuals by TWX that would not be coming to Honolulu. John Iman brought the three Senior Health Aides to the hotel for interview. All three candidates were equally qualified and all wanted the job. After the interview, Conard advised them to decide among themselves on which one would go to Rongelap. They stated they would discuss it and let him know. The balance of the day was spent with various individuals discussing items relating to the ~~surgery survey~~.

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October 24 was also a holiday, United Nations Day. We contacted John Iman who advised that Elejo Elanjo was the Senior Health Aide that was chosen for Conard's program. I outlined to John the method we proposed to make reimbursement to the T. T. for Elanjo's services and suggested the arrangements be made effective January 1, 1970. This was all right with John. This arrangement and the financial matters would be discussed and finalized with T. T. Headquarters at Saipan.

We heard that an Army plane from Kwajalein was making an unscheduled stop at Majuro. Since our business on Majuro was most completed, and we still had some details to work out at Kwajalein, we managed to get seating on the plane. We departed Majuro at 3:30 p.m., October 24, and arrived Kwajalein at 5:20 p.m., October 23.

Part of Saturday, October 24, was spent with Frank Granich of Global Associates and Murph Ownby of T. T. in detailing the arrangement for loading and shipping the items supporting the Rongelap survey. The need for a place for the survey team to conduct their examination on Ebeye was discussed. Due to overcrowded conditions on Ebeye, the T. T. this year cannot furnish a facility for examinations. We asked Granich if a trailer could be loaned from Kwajalein for the purpose. However, nothing was available. I stated that when I returned to Honolulu I would determine if a trailer could be made available from the AEC assets and, if so, would arrange to have it transferred to Conard's program and ship it to Kwajalein for final location on Ebeye. The T. T. said they would give us space and utility hook-ups for the trailer location. Granich advised they could move the trailer from Kwajalein to Ebeye and assist in setting it up.

Conard and I departed Kwajalein at 12:35 p. m., October 25, and with intermediate stops at Ponape, Turk and Guam and arrived at Saipan 4:30 p.m., October 26.

October 27, Conard and I went to T. T. Headquarters and met with Dr. Peck, head of the T. T. Medical Department, where we discussed the survey program and the part the T. T. would play in supporting the survey. Mr. Johnston, T. T. High Commissioner, was away in Washington. In the afternoon, we met with Peter Coleman, Deputy High Commissioner, Dwight Hiene, Special Assistant to the High Commissioner, Bob Hefner, Attorney General, and discussed the inconvenience payment to the Utirik people. It was agreed the T. T. would make all arrangements for payment to the people with reimbursement made by the AEC to the T. T. After this meeting, Dr. Conard

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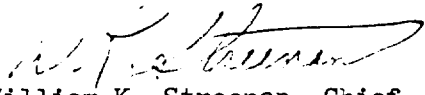
continued his discussions with Dr. Peck and his Medical Department staff while I visited with Ron Peterson, Deputy Director of the T. T. Finance Department. I first ascertained that the AEC had no outstanding monies due the T. T. We then worked out the financial arrangements consistent with those in the past to assure that prompt payments will be continued to be made by the AEC to the T. T. for the logistic support services and the Senior Health Aide services provided to Conard's program.

Conard and I left Saipan at 8:00 a.m., October 28, and after short stops at Guam, Turk, Ponape, Kwajalein, Majuro and Johnston Island, arrived in Honolulu at 1:00 a.m., October 28.

On October 28, Dr. Conard and I visited the East-West Center relative to the type of medical training that Conard could obtain for some of the native Medical Technicians involved in his program. After this meeting, I went to the AEC office and met with various Holmes and Narver personnel to finalize the support items needed for the survey schedule and to obtain an excess trailer for use on Ebeye.

October 29 Dr. Conard departed Honolulu for New York, and I continued with H&N with support and financial arrangements. A trailer, excess to the AEC-PASO requirements, was examined and, upon approval by Bill Hills, arrangements were made with H&N to do a little work on it and ship it to Kwajalein. Arrangements were made for H&N to issue purchase orders to Global and Trust Territory covering reimbursement for the survey services provided by each.

At 9:30 a.m., October 30, I departed Honolulu and arrived in Las Vegas at 7:00 p.m., concluding the trip.


William K. Streenan, Chief
Contr. Admin. Sec., Constr. Br.
Engineering & Construction Division

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cc: Dr. Conard, BNL
W. B. Hills, Dir.,
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