

BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY
ASSOCIATED UNIVERSITIES, INC.

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REFER:

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

7 December 1971

Dr. John R. Totter
Director
Division of Biology and Medicine
United States Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D. C. 20545

REPOSITORY DOE/PASO
COLLECTION DOE/NV
BOX No. 1228, "ERDA # 3"
BIO-MED, DR. CONARD
FOLDER 01 THRU 12 / 1970

Dear John,

As you know, there have been serious difficulties in enforcing a satisfactory treatment program in the Rongelap thyroid cases. Dr. Conard has found that the employment of a Marshallese health aide has not resulted in satisfactory treatment, and he is anxious to have a physician in the Islands for a prolonged period of time to straighten out the therapy program. Dr. Knud Knudsen who has been on the medical staff of Brookhaven National Laboratory since 1964 and participated in the last Marshall Island survey has expressed his willingness to spend a year in the Marshall Islands and endeavor to straighten out the thyroid treatment program and assist in general with the health care of the exposed Marshallese. Dr. Knudsen is an excellent clinician and in view of his interest in the project and obvious capabilities demonstrated during the recent survey, Dr. Conard feels that his efforts in this regard will be most valuable. The conditions under which Dr. Knudsen would agree to this is that he would be able to live at Kwajalein and have his family with him.

Dr. Knudsen has expressed interest in continued assistance and participation in the Marshall Island program and the experience gained by his year in the Islands would be invaluable in this regard. As mentioned in the past and incorporated into our Six-Year Forecast and 189, the need for obtaining a replacement prior to Dr. Conard's retirement (seven years hence) has been considered. Though this may appear premature, I recommend that Dr. Knudsen be considered for this position and believe that the arrangements discussed here would permit him to become better acquainted with the project and in a better position to assume responsibility for the project when the time comes. In the meantime, he would continue his major research interest working with Dr. Dahl's program on hypertension. Dr. Conard feels that Dr. Knudsen is well fitted to be his replacement.

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Dr. Knudsen is a Norwegian citizen on an immigrant's visa. He expects to become a naturalized U. S. citizen within a few months. If you agree with this proposal, it is requested that the AEC obtain permission for Dr. Knudsen and his family to be housed at Kwajalein for a period of one year beginning about 1 July 1972. This should include the privilege for his children to attend school. Kwajalein is under the U. S. Army Safeguard Program at the Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, Alabama. If this proposal is approved it would be appreciated if arrangements could be completed prior to the next medical survey in March 1972 which would enable Drs. Conard and Knudsen to discuss arrangements while in the Islands.

Approval of this proposal would increase the expenditure for the Marshallese project. During the year that Dr. Knudsen would be away would require the employment of a clinical research associate to work with Dr. Dahl. Whether additional funds would be required will depend upon the FY '73 budget for this Department.

Sincerely yours,



Eugene P. Cronkite, M. D.
Chairman

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cc: Dr. V. P. Bond
Dr. R. A. Conard

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