

UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20545

403524

January 17, 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR CHAIRMAN SEABORG
COMMISSIONER JOHNSON
COMMISSIONER NABRIT
COMMISSIONER RAMEY
COMMISSIONER TAPE

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THROUGH GENERAL MANAGER

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SUBJECT: RECENT INFORMATION ON THE STATUS OF THYROID DISEASE IN THE
MARSHALLESE EXPOSED TO FALLOUT FROM THE BIKINI TEST OF
MARCH 1, 1954

The following updates the information on this subject with respect
to our last memorandum dated May 4, 1966 (copy attached).

The five cases mentioned on page 2, paragraph 2, were brought from
Rongelap to Brookhaven during the latter half of May and admitted to
the Medical Department on May 26, 1966. After thorough evaluation
they were transferred to the New England Deaconess Hospital, Boston,
for subtotal thyroidectomies. Following operation, they were returned
to Brookhaven on June 11, discharged from Brookhaven on June 16, and
returned home.

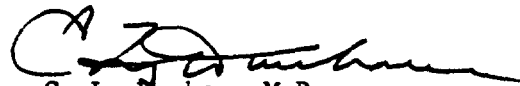
All withstood surgery easily and have exhibited no complications
except the expected hypothyroidic state which is to be treated by
daily oral administration of appropriate thyroid hormone. All the
patients were females with present ages of 46, 20, 15, 13, and 13,
or respective ages of 34, 8, 3, 1, and 1 years at time of exposure.
All showed adenomatous goiters with nodules varying from one large
single nodule to multiple small ones; one patient had a small nodule
with Hurtle cells which, while anaplastic, are not necessarily
neoplastic.

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OTM INCIDENCE OF THYROID
FOLDER CANCER OR OTHER DISEASES
IN THE EXPOSED GROUPS 1965-1968

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Dr. Conard visited Rongelap in September 1966 and found these patients to be without new medical problems.

The nodules in the thyroids of the remaining patients seem to be controllable by the administration of thyroid hormone. Decisions regarding possible surgery for them and further medical regimens are being deferred until the next annual survey of the Marshallese next month by Dr. Conard and his team.



C. L. Dunham, M.D.
Director
Division of Biology and Medicine

Attachment:
Copy of 5/4/66 Memo

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