

UNITED STATES
ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

PACIFIC AREA SUPPORT OFFICE
ENEWETAK ATOLL, M.I. 96737

403568

17 June 1977

Brig. General Thomas E. Lacy, Commander
Field Command, DNA

Dear General Lacy:

Upon reviewing with the Enewetak Chief Medical Officer (Lt. Col. Thorpe) the medical examination records of certain TTPI employees, I am concerned about these employees as potential vectors for parasite infestation of U. S. personnel.

According to Dr. Thorpe, a number of parasite strains are reported in the records of examination, and he has learned that this problem is prevalent in the Marshalls. One specific strain is said to be common in the population. Dr. Thorpe indicates that in a U. S. population the presence of these parasites would be expected to be accompanied by clinical symptoms (apparently absent among the employee candidates). This suggests a resistance or immunity which we do not enjoy.

Because of the rarity of certain of these parasites in the U. S. population, Dr. Thorpe acknowledges little more than a textbook acquaintance with their control and management. In response to my direct question, he indicated that he would be more comfortable with the advice of a trained parasitologist or specialist in tropical medicine. Such specialized competence is known to be available at Tripler Army Hospital and, perhaps, elsewhere in the military complex in Hawaii.

Although I certainly see no reason for alarm, I strongly urge that arrangements be made for a suitably qualified professional to review this health and welfare matter while the numbers are still small and the problem is only potential.

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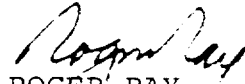


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Brig. Lacy

Meanwhile, I have directed Holmes and Narver not to use any TPI employees in domestic or food service activities.

Sincerely,



ROGER RAY
Assistant Manager for
Environment and Safety

RR:em

cc: Manager, NV, Las Vegas
Director, PASO, Honolulu
Res. Mgr., H&N, Enewetak