

Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20204

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Dear Mrs. Farrington:

You may recall that in your letter to me of September 16, 1969, you made reference to Dr. Robert A. Conard's recommendation for some compensation to the Utiirik people and furnished me comments of Trust Territory officials on this subject.

As you know, Dr. Conard continues to conduct periodic medical examinations of the Marshallese people who were subjected to the 1954 fallout radiation, and his current plans are to revisit those islands for this purpose late in October of this year. He is still very much interested in obtaining approval for a token payment to the Utiirik people to assure their continued

cooperation in these important medical examinations. He has discussed this matter with the High Commissioner and other officials of the Trust Territory and feels that they are sympathetic to this approach. Dr. Conard further believes that a payment of about \$100 to each of the 157 Utiirik people involved or their next descendant would constitute an acceptable amount and that such payment, if made, should be clearly identified as an "inconvenience payment" and disassociated completely from any idea of recompense for having been subjected to fallout radiation.

Because of the great importance that we place on the continuation of these examinations, we endorse Dr. Conard's proposal; and the AEC is prepared to provide approximately \$16,000 for this purpose. We assume that, if approved, the funds would be made available by transfer to the Trust Territory for appropriate distribution to the individuals concerned.

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In this regard, to preclude the possibility of a claim by a Utirik might be deemed to constitute an acknowledgement by the Government that a compensatory claim for radiation had occurred, we request the opportunity to review any proposed voucher or receipt form to be used.

We are uncertain as to how to proceed further at this point and would appreciate your advice and guidance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Original signed by John R. Totter
John R. Totter, Director
Division of Biology and Medicine

cc: Mr. Edward Johnston
High Commissioner
Trust Territories of the
Pacific Islands
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

Secretary (2)
bcc: S. G. English, AGMRD
L. Sides, OGC
D. Shaw, OC

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