

a type often connected to radiation exposure in people of atolls in the northern Marshall Islands which had been viewed by the United States as either uncontaminated by radioactive fallout from the nuclear weapons testing or contaminated by such a low level of radiation as to be of no consequence."

to avoid compensating those whose injury was
not caused by radiation (under-inclusive)."
[Summary Report, p. 74]

Clearly, Congress and the President concluded that in the
case of our nuclear weapons testing program conducted in

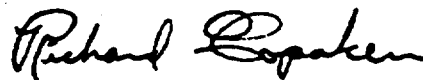
made during the meeting to the effect that this same Interagency Task Force Report had concluded "that existing knowledge is insufficient to provide an unequivocal answer to the low-dose question" or, put differently, there are no levels of radiation that can conclusively be deemed safe. This is what I understand to be the one-hit theory of ionizing radiation effects.

This same Report of the Interagency Task Force on the Health Effects of Ionizing Radiation specifically observed in regard to the fallout produced exposures to populations located in "certain South Pacific islands," and other areas downwind from the test sites that

"because only environmental monitoring and not personnel monitoring was conducted, the external and internal doses received by these groups over the course of the testing program are not known with certainty."
[Summary Report, p.12]

full cooperation of the Department of Energy in giving effect to this law even though your Department had urged the President to veto it.

Sincerely,



Richard D. Copaken

gmd -

cc: The Honorable Amata Kabua
The Honorable Anton A. deBrum
James Bierne, Esquire
Mr. Jeffrey Farrow
Mr. Wallace Green
Mr. John E. deYoung
Dr. Robert Loeffler

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Reviewed by [Signature] Date 5/1/97