

Enclosure 1

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October 11, 1979

Dr. Janakiram R. Naidu
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Dear Jan:

Sorry to be so slow in getting these comments to you. This has been a very busy six weeks. I do not consider myself an expert on education, especially education of the Marshallese. Our experience this summer only made me aware of the difficulties. Therefore my comments are only based on impressions I gained in reading your paper, a little knowledge of the bomb tests in the Marshalls and a little knowledge of DOE activities in the Marshalls gained from the Northern Marshall Islands Advisory Group effort with which I have been associated for 18 months.

Since you asked for comments I felt you really wanted my honest reactions, which is what you are getting. Please don't be offended by any of my comments. They are truly offered in an attempt to be helpful.

I have not discussed these detailed comments with anyone. However, I did relay to Vic Bond and Charlie Meinhold concerns I heard at DOE about your paper. These concerns apparently were related to your description of an extensive educational program that implies DOE authorization and support. I think it is believed that presentation of such a program description could be interpreted as a DOE commitment which DOE may not be able to honor. The other point was that the historical summary raised some old sensitive issues that are not relevant to the paper.

My principal criticism is that your assessment of past educational activities conducted by you and others is too subjective. There are objective methods for assessing the effectiveness of such efforts. While your efforts may well have been very effective, the reader is quickly turned off by continuous proclamations by the author about how good he is.

Obviously, I found your paper very interesting. My suggestions for improvement include the following:

1. Brief historical summary of Bravo and radiation levels on islands.
2. Summary of your experience in the Marshalls.
3. Your ideas for a useful educational program--making it clear that it is your idea and not a program that is either in place or provided by DOE, DOI, etc. I hope this is helpful.

With best regards,



W. J. Bair, Ph.D.
Manager
Environment, Health and
Safety Research Program

WJB:ms

Attachment

~~Same point as the one above~~
line 3 - Perhaps negligible compared with Rongelap, but about compared with background?

line 5 - Visit of what Japanese? When? Where? The whole item b needs clarification.

line 10 - Clarify item c!

line 12 - This says that if you explain radiation all fear and rumors will disappear. Item d needs help also.

line 14 - Communications between atolls? Item e is too incomplete for the uninformed reader. For example, what problems at Bikini? Also, it is not clear in any of this whether you are talking about 1954 after the Bravo shot, or at some specific time afterward.

of the of radiation must be present to be significant (?) name.

line 12 - Obvious to the Marshallese or to the Americans?

line 17 - How did "this action" serve as an example of high background areas in other parts of the world?

line 23 - Tremendous success? How measured and by whom?

line 25 - The existence of an extensive educational program for Rongelap Utirik, Enewetak and Bikini peoples is a surprise to me. This had never been mentioned to the Northern Marshall Islands Advisory Group. Also, if Bruce had been aware of it he would have drawn from it for the Enewetak briefing.

all of these "educated" (it was a poor education at the best) youth, as they were were led to expect, there is a large population of frustrated youth. The seriousness of the problem is the very high suicide rate among the youth of Ebeye.

REPOSITORY PNNL
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FOLDER Eniwetok Oct-Dec 1979

DOCUMENT DOES NOT CONTAIN ECI

Reviewed by R. Schuetz Date 4/30/97