

REPORT OF THE MEETING BETWEEN
THE UNITED STATES ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND
THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS
REGARDING MEDICAL CARE OF THE RONGELAP AND UTIRIK PEOPLE

KWAJALEIN, M. I., FEBRUARY 4-5, 1977

The United States Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA), formerly AEC, has for more than 20 years conducted a program of medical surveillance of the people of Rongelap and Utirik who were exposed to fallout from a weapons test in 1954. In the course of this activity, and with the knowledge and consent of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (TTPI), the ERDA medical teams have provided limited medical care for the people at Rongelap and Utirik.

The people living on Utirik and Rongelap, have recently and separately expressed a desire for changes in the type of medical care under the ERDA program. Specifically, they have addressed requests to ERDA for more comprehensive medical care for all the people living on these islands.

It is recognized that general medical care of the people of the Marshall Islands is a responsibility of the Administration of the TTPI. It is in the interest of both the TTPI and the US (ERDA) to explore ways in which medical needs can best be met by cooperative efforts of both parties within the framework of their respective responsibilities.

In response to a Trust Territory request, the ERDA representative reported that the US (ERDA) is prepared to continue its assistance to the TTPI in the discharge of its health care responsibilities to the people living on Rongelap and Utirik.

The following arrangements were agreed to:

- a. ERDA will invite TTPI medical personnel (e.g., medical officer, nurses, health aides, technicians) to participate in the ERDA medical visits in order to facilitate expanded programs such as well baby clinics, family planning, etc., and will assist with logistic support of these activities. For the next four quarterly visits, the TT will provide one medical officer, one health assistant, and up to two additional medical personnel, as needed. Travel, per diem and subsistence will be paid by ERDA; salaries will be paid by TTPI.
- b. ERDA will assist in arranging for additional US medical doctors to participate in the medical team visits, as may be required to assist the TTPI in providing general medical care to the people living on Rongelap and Utirik. For the next spring survey (March, 1977), ERDA will make every effort to provide, and will fund if necessary, two additional physicians. It is anticipated that the two physicians will be provided by the Public Health Service.
- c. ERDA will, to the extent operationally feasible, extend the duration of its medical team visits to Rongelap and Utirik to accommodate the needs of the Trust Territory medical program. Therefore, for the next spring visit, it is expected that duration of stay of the medical team will be extended by two to three days.
- d. The medical teams, while at the islands, will extend medical care and treatment equally to all those living on the two islands.

It is recognized that the arrangements set forth above do not constitute a modification of the agreement of Dec. 2, 1974 between the TTPI and ERDA nor do they alter statutory responsibilities of either agency.

William W. Burr 2/7/77
Signature: William W. Burr, M.D.
Deputy Director,
Division of Biomedical and Environmental
Research, ERDA

Oscar deBum 2/7/77
Signature: Oscar deBum
District Administrator
Marshall Islands

ATTENDEES

- Dr. William W. Burr, Deputy Director, DBER, ERDA
- Mr. Roger Ray, Asst. Manager for Environment & Safety, ERDA
- Mr. Oscar DeBrum, District Administrator, Marshalls
- Dr. Ezra Riklon, Marshalls District Director of Health Services
- Dr. Masao Kumangai, Director of Health Services
- Mr. Robert Hazlett, Peace Corps Representative Marshalls
- Dr. Robert Conard, Head of BNL Medical Surveys in the Marshalls
- Dr. Victor Bond, Associate Laboratory Director, BNL
- Dr. Knud Knudsen, Resident Physician, BNL
- Mr. Atlan Anien, Speaker of the Nitijela
- Ms. Kristine Morris, Program Specialist, ERDA