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June 18, 1959

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Charles L. Dunham, M.D., Director  
Division of Biology and Medicine

MEETING WITH HIGH COMMISSIONER HUCKER, MR. YEOMANS AND DR. DEYOUNG  
ANTHROPOLOGIST IN YEOMAN'S OFFICE, INTERIOR DEPARTMENT

SYMBOL: BM:CLD

I was not unprepared for the approach taken by the High Commissioner inasmuch as Dr. Conard had already indicated that the Medical Survey Team was met with real resistance on arrival and that only gradually over a period of days did all of the original Rongelapese group come around for the complete examination. Mr. Hucker also had some supporting documents by Mr. Nease the Distad and by Mr. Morris full-time U. S. agriculturist on the atoll to show that the arrival of the LST with 20 odd scientists plus supporting personnel was not only a disrupting influence but fostered the following feelings:

1. If we aren't sick why do you come back each year?
2. The U. S. Gov't. is very wealthy and could easily support us in toto so why should we not let the copra crop rot, and why should we fish?

Unfortunately the two years at Ejit on Majuro atoll were very indolent ones. The Trust Territory Authorities feel they must run the show their way or cease to be responsible for the situation. Their problem is a very real one.

Mr. Hucker urged that we work through their Medical Service as much as possible and forego all but absolutely necessary examinations. He believes that if given 2-3 years freedom from large medical surveys the people will accept a normal life and have no further interest in perpetrating the "dols." Whether he is right or not I cannot say, but I think the situation is serious enough to warrant our grossly simplifying our studies.

The physical surveys are less of a problem but there seems to be a tendency by the natives egged on by a few to interpret these visits as well in a dim light--to pump Dr. Held on radioactivity and to misinterpret his comments re contamination. Mr. Hucker hoped once a year would be sufficient for the University of Washington team. I told Mr. Hucker I'd confer with Dr. Wolfe re this point.

cc; Dr. Shilling

*X* P/c Navy, medical follow-up.

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DATE ▶	6/18/59				