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March 23, 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

FROM: ED HELLER H

SUBJECT: Conference with Dr. John Bugher, Director Biology & Medicine

Return to
F. Spiller

The following information was supplied by Dr. Bugher this morning in a discussion in his office.

THE ISLANDERS

Rongelap

The Rongelap Islanders are the only ones showing any significant medical symptoms and in their case the symptoms are quite mild. About 25% are losing some hair and about the same percentage show detectable skin lesions and two have mucous membranes lesions. In each case the lesions resembled small ulcers and it is anticipated that they will clear up in the next two to four weeks. The blood count averages about 2/3 of normal. That is, about 5000 instead of approximately 8000. It is believed that the blood counts will also be normal in another month.

Rongerik

The weather personnel on Rongerik show a blood count 25 to 30% below normal but no known medical effects.

Utirik

The islanders on Utirik show no medical effects at this time.

JAPANESE FISHERMEN

Dr. Bugher has now received blood count figures on the Japanese fishermen and these indicate that the fishermen received an exposure somewhat less than that received by the weather personnel on Rongerik.

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General correspondence

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