

Compensation for the People of Rongelap and Utirik

A Report By

The Special Joint Committee Concerning Rongelap and Utirik Atolls

to the

Fifth Congress of Micronesia

Second Regular Session, February 28, 1974

26128 JCHE General Correspondence
Box 712
Folio: Bikini Atoll

Rongelap Report



Leko Anjain reading in his hospital bed at Bethesda, Maryland.



John Anjain at the bedside of Leko.



Leko's body in casket before final journey home.



CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA

SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950

SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE
CONCERNING RONGELAP &
UTIRIK ATOLLS

February 28, 1974

Senator Olympio T. Borja, Chairman
Representative Timothy Olkeriil
Representative Ataji Balos

The Honorable Tosiwo Nakayama
President of the Senate
Congress of Micronesia

and

The Honorable Bethwel Henry
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Congress of Micronesia

Dear Sirs:

Pursuant to House Joint Resolution No. 73, adopted by the First Regular Session of the Fifth Congress of Micronesia, your Special Joint Committee Concerning Rongelap and Utirik Atolls, herewith presents its reports to the Congress on compensation for the people of the aforesaid atolls.

This document represents the third report by your Committee to the Congress of Micronesia. The first report, as required by P.L. 4C-33 was presented to the Presiding Officers of the Congress on May 16, 1972. This interim report presented some of the Committee's findings to that date and outlined its future plans. The second report on Medical Aspects of the Incident of March 1, 1954 was presented to the First Regular Session of the Fifth Congress in February 1973. As recommended, this report has also been summarized and translated into the Marshallese language and will be distributed to the people of Rongelap and Utirik.

The report, which we submit now, deals with various aspects of possible compensation for these people who were irradiated, dislocated, and certain of whom have suffered illness and other affects from their experience of nearly 20 years ago.

Accordance with its previous report, this report also make certain recommendations which it feels are both practical and reasonable, with which we hope the people of Rongelap and Utirik and the members of this Congress will agree and will find satisfactory.

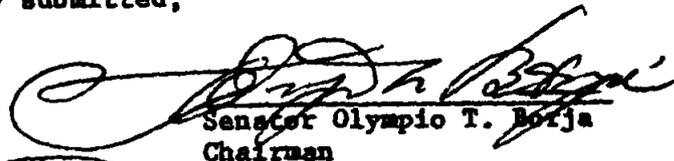
The Committee also wishes to note that a great majority of past recommendations have been carried out, and that at present there appears to be greater confidence by the Rongelapese and Utirikese in the validity of the annual medical examinations to which they are subjected. Furthermore, there have been encouraging responses from the United States Government, most particularly the Brookhaven National Laboratory and the Atomic Energy Commission in supporting in a substantive way suggestions made by the Committee and also P.L. 5-52 which was enacted by the First Regular Session of the Fifth Congress.

The Committee also wishes to draw attention to the excellent cooperation it has received not only from such departments of the Executive Branch as Health Services and the Office of the Attorney General, but also from the people of Utirik and Rongelap.

It is the belief that the intent of its recommendations were to be carried out, that the reason for its own existence will cease, and that in the future even though the committee will continue to monitor the situation with March 31, 1975 - other problems or complications with regard to this matter can be handled by the people themselves and at the district level.

It is thus, with this intent in mind, that your Special Joint Committee submits this report.

Respectfully submitted,


 Senator Olympio T. Borja
 Chairman


 Representative Timothy Olkeriil
 Member

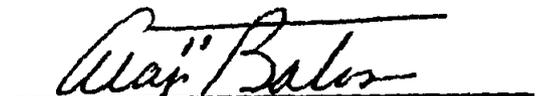

 Representative Ataji Balos
 Member

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RONGELAP/UTIRIK COMPENSATION

MARCH 2, 1974

MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE SENATE.

TWENTY YEARS AGO YESTERDAY, ONE OF THE MORE UNFORTUNATE INCIDENTS IN THE HISTORY OF MANKIND HAPPENED. AND TO ADD TO THIS MISFORTUNE, THE INCIDENT HAPPENED TO MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED MICRONESIANS WHO WERE FROM THE ISLANDS OF RONGELAP AND UTIRIK IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS DISTRICT.

ON MARCH 1, 1954 THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA EXPLODED ON BIKINI ATOLL, A GIGANTIC HYDROGEN BOMB. THIS BOMB WAS THE BIGGEST AND MOST POWERFUL DEVICE EVER DETONATED BY MAN. IT WAS EQUIVALENT TO MORE THAN 30,000,000,000 POUNDS OF DYNAMITE. FURTHERMORE, SINCE THE DEVICE WAS A "NUCLEAR" WEAPON, THE PRODUCTS OF THE EXPLOSION WERE HIGHLY RADIO-ACTIVE.

WHAT HAPPENED AS A RESULT OF THAT EXPLOSION IS A MATTER OF HISTORY AND ALSO A MATTER OF RECORD AS STATED IN A REPORT BY THE SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE CONCERNING RONGELAP AND UTIRIK WHICH WAS ADOPTED BY THIS CONGRESS LAST YEAR.

ON A THEORETICAL BASIS, MR. PRESIDENT, IT IS VERY EASY TO SYMPATHIZE WITH THOSE PEOPLE WHO WERE AFFECTED. HOWEVER, I WISH TO NOTE THAT AS CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE AFTER HAVING REVIEWED ALL THE MATERIALS; AND AFTER HAVING SEEN PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE

PEOPLE AFFECTED; AND AFTER HAVING MET THE PEOPLE WHO WERE ACTUALLY AFFECTED BY THIS BOMB, I HAVE MORE THAN JUST SIMPLE SYMPATHY FOR THESE PEOPLE. I HAVE AN EMOTION WHICH IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO DESCRIBE, AND THE ONLY WAY ALL OF US CAN APPROXIMATELY UNDERSTAND THIS EMOTION IS TO IMAGINE FOR A BRIEF, UNBEARABLE MOMENT HOW WE WOULD FEEL IF OUR SON OR DAUGHTER WERE TO DIE AS THE RESULT OF THE NEGLIGENCE OF ANOTHER PERSON, OR IF OUR FAMILIES WERE TO BE MADE SICK AND WORRY ABOUT THEIR FUTURE HEALTH BECAUSE OF THE FAULT OF ANOTHER PERSON.

MR. PRESIDENT, I COULD GO ON AND ON ABOUT THIS SUBJECT. I COULD GO INTO GREAT DETAIL IN DESCRIBING THE PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE RONGELAPESE WHO WERE DISFIGURED BY RADIATION BURNS BECAUSE OF THIS NEGLIGENCE, AND MOST POIGNANTLY I COULD DESCRIBE IN GREAT DETAIL THE PHOTOGRAPHS WHICH SHOW MR. JOHN ANJAIN AT THE BEDSIDE OF HIS DYING SON, LEKOJ.

HOWEVER, MR. PRESIDENT, IT IS NOT MY DUTY TO SPEAK OF UNSPEAKABLE EMOTIONS. IT IS MY DUTY, AS CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS WRONG WHICH HAS BEEN VISITED UPON OUR INNOCENT BROTHERS AND SISTERS.

NEARLY TWO YEARS AGO, THE FOURTH CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA SAW FIT TO CREATE BY ENACTMENT OF PUBLIC LAW NO. 4C-33, A SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE CONCERNING RONGELAP AND UTIRIK ATOLLS. THIS COMMITTEE WAS MANDATED TO STUDY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS IN TWO GENERAL AREAS: INJURY AND MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR THE RONGELAPESE AND UTIRIKESE, AND COMPENSATION FOR THOSE PEOPLE. WE HAVE FULFILLED THE FIRST PART OF THE MANDATE BY SUBMISSION OF OUR REPORT A YEAR AGO; AND WE NOW CONCLUDE THE REMAINING PART OF THAT MANDATE BY SUBMISSION

OF THE REPORT WHICH I PRESENT TO THE SENATE TODAY. IN THIS CONNECTION, I WISH TO STATE THAT I AND THE REST OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ARE GRATEFUL TO THIS CONGRESS FOR THE APPROPRIATIONS WHICH IT HAS APPROVED IN THE PAST, AND WHICH IT MAY PROVIDE DURING THIS SESSION TO CARRY OUT THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE. WITHOUT THEM, THE PEOPLE OF RONGELAP AND UTIRIK MIGHT NEVER HAVE BEEN JUSTLY RECOGNIZED AND TREATED FOR THE WRONGS WHICH WERE DONE TO THEM.

MR. PRESIDENT, IT IS A SAD BUT TRUE FACT THAT COMPENSATION FOR THESE PEOPLE CAN NEVER MAKE THEM "WHOLE" AGAIN. WHAT WRONG HAS BEEN COMMITTED CAN NEVER BE ERASED BY BETTER MEDICAL TREATMENT, OR EVEN THE PAYMENT OF MONEY. HOWEVER, COMPENSATION CAN ATTEMPT TO DO THIS AND THE GESTURE, IF NOTHING ELSE, MAY HAVE SOME HELPFUL EFFECT UPON THESE PEOPLE.

YOUR COMMITTEE HAS MADE RECOMMENDATIONS TO COMPENSATE THESE PEOPLE. THESE RECOMMENDATIONS INVOLVE NOT HUGE SUMS OF MONEY, BUT RELATIVELY SMALL SUMS OF MONEY. IN FACT, WE ARE RECOMMENDING WHAT IS PROBABLY MUCH LESS THAN THE COST OF BUILDING THE BOMB WHICH HAS CAUSED SO MUCH MISERY AND SUFFERING TO THE PEOPLE. WE HAVE RECOMMENDED COMPENSATION FOR FOUR DIFFERENT AREAS. THEY ARE:

1. MONEY FOR THE PARENTS OF LEKOJ ANJAIN WHO DIED AT THE AGE OF 19 YEARS IN 1972.
2. MONEY FOR THOSE PEOPLE WHO HAVE HAD OPERATIONS DUE TO RADIATION-INDUCED DISEASES.
3. MONEY FOR THE UTIRIKESE FOR THEIR DISLOCATION AND EXPOSURE.

AND NUMBER FOUR, MR. PRESIDENT, WE ARE RECOMMENDING THAT THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY ESTABLISH PERMANENT FUNDS FOR THE ISLANDS OF RONGELAP AND UTIRIK IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,000 TO BE USED FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS AND WHAT PORTION THE PEOPLE USE EACH YEAR WILL BE REPLACED THE NEXT YEAR SO THAT \$25,000 WILL ALWAYS BE AVAILABLE TO THESE PEOPLE FOR THEIR USE. THIS LAST STEP WAS DECIDED UPON AFTER REVIEWING THE VARIOUS POSSIBILITIES. IT HAS NOW BEEN 20 YEARS SINCE THE INCIDENT OCCURRED AND IT IS PERHAPS TOO LATE TO DISCOVER EXACTLY WHAT KIND OF DAMAGE WAS DONE BY THE FALLOUT TO THE ISLANDS, AND WATER OF THE TWO ATOLLS. HOWEVER, WE FEEL THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THESE FUNDS WILL HELP TO COMPENSATE THE PEOPLE FOR WHAT DAMAGE HAS BEEN DONE: THAT IT WILL NOT CREATE DEPENDENCY--WHICH COMPENSATION TENDS TO DO AND WHICH IS THE ANTITHESIS OF THE INTENT OF COMPENSATION; AND THAT IT WILL ENCOURAGE THOSE WHO HAVE LEFT THESE ISLANDS TO RETURN TO THEM.

MR. PRESIDENT, WE ARE NOT SUGGESTING THAT MILLIONS AND MILLIONS OF DOLLARS BE GIVEN TO THESE PEOPLE. WE ARE SUGGESTING FIGURES WHICH I WOULD GUAGE ARE MINIMUM DEMANDS. WE ARE NOT RECOMMENDING INFLATED FIGURES TO BE NEGOTIATED UPON. WE FAIL TO SEE ANY MERIT IN NEGOTIATION IN THIS CASE. THE FACTS ARE CLEAR. THE PEOPLE WERE INJURED. THE UNITED STATES IS RESPONSIBLE. THE UNITED STATES THUS MUST DO JUSTICE TO THESE PEOPLE.

HOWEVER, IN THE EVENT THAT THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT WISH TO DO JUSTICE TO THESE PEOPLE, WE HAVE RECOMMENDED THAT THE PEOPLE OF

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

RONGELAP AND UTIRIK ENGAGE LEGAL COUNSEL AND FILE A CLASS ACTION SUIT AGAINST THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. FURTHERMORE, SINCE THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA HAD THE FORESIGHT TO EXTEND THE LIFE OF THIS COMMITTEE UNTIL MARCH 1975, AND HOPEFULLY WILL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR IT THIS SESSION, WE WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE SUCH ACTION AS WE FEEL IS NECESSARY TO BRING THIS MATTER TO THE ATTENTION OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE COURT OF WORLD OPINION, SHOULD THE U.S. GOVERNMENT SOMEHOW TRY TO AVOID ITS OBLIGATIONS.

LASTLY, I WOULD LIKE TO MENTION THAT YOUR COMMITTEE HAS SPENT NEARLY \$12,000 IN TWO YEARS IN THE COURSE OF ITS WORK. IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT WE HAVE HAD TO USE TAXPAYER'S MONEY TO STUDY A PROBLEM CREATED BY THE UNITED STATES. HOWEVER, I BELIEVE IT HAS BEEN MONEY WELL SPENT, FOR AT PRESENT THE TRUST TERRITORY IS NOW NEGOTIATING WITH THE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR P.L. 5-52 WHICH WAS ENACTED LAST YEAR, AND ALSO TO PROVIDE THE ORIGINAL "INCONVENIENCE" PAYMENT TO THE UTIRIKESE.

IT IS THE SENSE OF THE COMMITTEE, THAT IF OUR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT AND COMPENSATION ARE FOLLOWED, THE RATIONALE FOR EXISTENCE OF THE COMMITTEE WILL CEASE. WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY SUCH EVENTS AS THE FORMATION OF A RONGELAP FALLOUT SURVIVORS ASSOCIATION, AND ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT FOR THESE PEOPLE FROM THE TRUST TERRITORY ADMINISTRATION. WE HOPE THAT EVENTUALLY ANY FURTHER PROBLEMS WILL BE ABLE TO BE HANDLED AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL, AND THAT IN THE FUTURE SHOULD THIS MATTER DEMAND THE ATTENTION OF THIS CONGRESS, THAT THE STANDING COMMITTEES ON HEALTH IN BOTH HOUSES, SHOULD BE ABLE TO DEAL

WITH IT. THE COMMITTEE HAS GATHERED THE INFORMATION AND LAID THE GROUND WORK FOR SUCH ACTION AND WE FEEL THAT WE WILL HAVE BEEN QUITE SUCCESSFUL IF IN THE FUTURE THE PEOPLE WILL BE SATISFIED WITH THEIR COMPENSATION, AND THEIR TREATMENT AND WILL BE ABLE TO CHANNEL QUESTIONS AND COMPLAINTS THROUGH THEIR LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

I KNOW I HAVE TAKEN UP MUCH OF OUR VALUABLE TIME WITH THIS SPEECH. HOWEVER, MR. PRESIDENT, IT FEEL IT IS TIME USED TO A VERY GOOD PURPOSE, NOT THE LEAST OF WHICH IS TO MEMORIALIZE A 19 YEAR OLD YOUTH WHO WAS SACRIFICED IN THE NAME OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY'S STRATEGIC INTERESTS.

THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT.

FIFTH CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA

FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 1973

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 73

A HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

Extending the life of the Special Joint Committee Concerning Rongelap and Utirik Atolls.

1 WHEREAS, under Public Law No. 4C-33 as enacted by the Second
2 Regular Session of the Fourth Congress of Micronesia a Special
3 Joint Committee Concerning Rongelap and Utirik Atolls was created
4 and given the mandate, among other things, to investigate the
5 results of irradiation on the people of Rongelap and Utirik Atolls
6 in the Marshall Islands District; and

7 WHEREAS, the said Special Joint Committee Concerning Rongelap
8 and Utirik Atolls submitted to this First Regular Session of the
9 Fifth Congress of Micronesia a report containing its findings and
10 recommending additional matters that this Congress should further
11 investigate; now, therefore,

12 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Fifth
13 Congress of Micronesia, First Regular Session, 1973, the Senate
14 concurring, that the life of the Special Joint Committee Concerning
15 Rongelap and Utirik Atolls as created by Public Law No. 4C-33 is
16 hereby extended until March 30, 1975. The said Special Committee
17 shall have the same functions, duties, powers, and responsibilities
18 as specified by Sections 3 and 4 of Public Law No. 4C-33; shall
19 have the same Committee membership and composition; and shall, in
20 addition, have powers and responsibilities to investigate
21 the question of compensation for property damage to the islands
22 and atolls and peoples thereof, and any other and related matters

1 the Committee deems necessary, proper, or appropriate. The
2 Committee shall have any and all rights, privileges, and powers
3 as granted any other committee of the Congress of Micronesia.
4 The Committee shall submit its findings and recommendations on
5 or before the Second Regular Session of the Fifth Congress of
6 Micronesia in January, 1974; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this House
8 Joint Resolution be transmitted to the members and Chairman of
9 the Special Joint Committee Concerning Rongelap and Utirik as
10 created under Public Law 4C-33, and to the House Speaker and
11 Senate President of the Congress of Micronesia, and to the High
12 Commissioner.

13

14 Adopted: February 26, 1973

FOREWORD BY THE COMMITTEE

Public Law 4C-33 which was enacted by the Congress of Micronesia during the Second Regular Session of the Fourth Congress spelled out two general areas or mandates for the Committee to work on and study.

"To insure that (the people of Rongelap and Utirik Atolls) should receive the best medical treatment available (and to this end) shall attempt to secure any and all medical assistance and aid for the people... from whatever source possible, and

"...that these people should also receive compensation for the injuries which they have suffered (and to this end the Committee) shall attempt to obtain compensation for the people of Rongelap and Utirik Atolls for the injuries they have suffered due to exposure to irradiation."

The first part of the Committee's mandate was fulfilled by submission of "A Report on Rongelap and Utirik to the Congress of Micronesia, Medical Aspects of the Incident of March 1, 1954 by the Special Joint Committee Concerning Rongelap and Utirik Atolls", and also by the recommendations which it contained. The report detailed the subject incident and other related information. Also, through the efforts of the Committee, four special medical consultants from Japan, Great Britain, and the United States participated in the 1973 examination and submitted their generally positive findings to the Committee.

The intent of P.L. 4C-33 was extended by House Joint Resolution No. 73 as adopted by the First Regular Session of the Fifth Congress of Micronesia, and allowed the Committee the time to prepare this report on Compensation.

Regarding this area, the Committee wishes to note that at the time of the writing of this report, negotiations were continuing between the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and the Atomic Energy Commission to bring about

consummation of an agreement to provide for support of P.L. 5-52 under the heading of research-related activities of the AEC, and also to provide the payment of \$18,212 in "inconvenience" money (increased from \$16,000) to the exposed and dislocated Utirikese, which was first offered by the AEC in 1970.

It is the hope of the Committee that both of these arrangements will be completed expeditiously--in any case, the Committee will continue to monitor the situation and will take such steps as it sees fit with regard to this matter.

The Joint Committee wishes to draw the readers' attention to three documents:

- 1) the appendix which contains a moving account by the columnist Stewart Alsop of his meeting with Leko Anjain in Bethesda, Maryland;
- 2) the appendix containing Senate Joint Resolution No. 36 which expresses the sorrow and sympathy of the Congress of Micronesia at the "untimely, unwarranted and irreplaceable loss" of Leko Anjain; and
- 3) the appendix which contains the Committee's past recommendations and what actions have been taken on them.

Lastly, the reader will note this report is considerably shorter than its past report. This is due to the fact that the area is somewhat less complicated than the original report; that the 1973 report has provided the basis for many of the conclusions reached in this report; and that although there was considerable information which could have led to it being considerably longer, this report has intentionally been made

shorter to encourage those who normally would be discouraged from reading a longer version, to read it in its entirety.

PAST -- COMPENSATION -- JAPAN

HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI

The events which led up to World War II, the dropping of Atomic bombs on Japan and those which prevailed after its conclusion, made for a set of circumstances which saw the people of Japan who were affected by the A-bomb, waiting for more than 10 years before any sort of compensation was given to them. Since Japan was fighting a war with the United States and other countries, and since the United States held sovereignty over Japan for more than ten years after the war, the matter of compensation was delayed. In terms of medical care, the people were treated by Japanese hospitals and by the Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission after the war. Since the country was in a process of rebuilding, direct compensation for the survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki was delayed for some time. However, in 1957, some time after United States military forces had left Japan, a national law was passed which provided certain kinds of compensation for certain classes of people who survived the bomb blast, or who were exposed to radiation. This law, which has been amended several times either by administrative directives or through other laws, provides a system of payments to A-bomb "sufferers". Some of these payments are made directly through the central government, and some of them to the prefectural governments which administer grants from the central government for this purpose. An excerpt from the Law No. 41 dated March 31, 1957 follows:

LAW FOR HEALTH PROTECTION AND MEDICAL SECURITY

FOR A-BOMB SUFFERERS

(Law No. 41, Mar. 31, 1957)

Amendment:

- (1) Law No. 136, Aug. 1, 1960
- (2) Law No. 161, Sept. 15, 1962

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SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS

CHAPTER I GENERAL PROVISIONS

(Purpose of this Law)

Article 1. The purpose of this Law is, in view of the special health conditions in which the sufferers of A-bomb dropped to Hiroshima City and Nagasaki City are left even now, to maintain and improve their health by means of physical check-up and medical treatments for the sufferers, performed by the State.

(Definitions)

Article 2. The term "sufferers" in this Law shall mean the persons falling under any one of the following respective items who are given the sufferers' health note book:

- (1) Those who were, at the time of the dropping of A-bomb, located in the area of Hiroshima City or Nagasaki City at that date or in the adjacent areas as prescribed by Cabinet Order;
- (2) Those who were, in the period as prescribed by Cabinet Order counting from the time of the dropping of A-bomb, among the areas provided for in the preceding item;

- (3) In addition to those mentioned in the preceding two items, those who were, at the time of the dropping of A-Bomb or thereafter, under such circumstances as to be affected to their bodies the influence of radioactivity of A-bomb;
- (4) Those who were, at the time when the persons mentioned in the preceding three items came to fall under the causes provided for in said respective items, the foetus of said persons.

THE LUCKY DRAGON

As was mentioned in our earlier report, the irradiation of the 23 Japanese fishermen on the Diego Maru No. 5 created a panic in Japan, because people feared that tuna fish caught in and around the waters of Bikini were radioactive, and thus could cause sickness to the people who ate the canned or fresh fish. Because of this great concern-- which was made a stronger by the past experience of the Japanese at Hiroshima and Nagasaki - the United States Government moved very fast in arranging for compensation to the people of Japan--in contrast to the nearly 12 years it took to give any substantial compensation to the people of Rongelap.

The exact amount of this compensation from the United States Government to the Japanese Government was \$2,000,000 (two million U.S. dollars). This money was then divided by the Japanese Government amongst the persons who had claims for damages--this included not only the 23 Japanese fishermen, but also the many Japanese fish retailers and fishing companies. In the Marshall Island many people have heard and believe that the Japanese fishermen each received \$2,000,000 each. This is not correct.

The Joint Committee has in its files a copy of an unclassified Department of State Intelligence Report No. 6941, dated May 19, 1955. This report shows that the United States Government gave \$2,000,000 to the Japanese Government, and, after some 15 consulting sessions among government agencies, the Japanese Cabinet distributed the money in various ways. Most of the money, about 88.6 percent of the total \$2,000,000 went to fishing companies and dealers. A little more than 11 percent went to the Japanese fishermen on the Lucky Dragon and this included certain medical payments. The actual amount of the money that went directly to the fishermen was about 7.6 percent. The payments to the 23 people, which were determined by the Japanese Government, and not the U.S. government, were as follows.

Family of Mr. Kuboyama -----Y 5,500.000 (U.S. \$15,2780)
Other 22 fishermen -----Y 2,000.000 (U.S. \$ 5,555)

Thus it can be seen that the fishermen got the equivalent of \$5,000 U.S. while the only exception to this was the *one fisherman who died. (Mr. Kuboyama) whose family received \$15,000 U.S. The rest of the money went to fishing firms and others who had lost fish and money because of the radioactivity from the bomb that fell into the ocean.

The \$2,000,000 per person figure might have been gotten from reading Japanese newspapers which might have reported the amount to the fishermen as ¥ 1,800,000 which is close to two million Japanese Yen, however, this amount is equivalent to only \$5,000 at the exchange rate of 360 yen to one U.S. dollar prevailing only a few years ago.

Furthermore, the Committee is not aware that these men ever received any other compensation than this amount. We checked in Tokyo with Mr. Matasugi Ohisi a Lucky Dragon survivor and he confirmed that the amount he received was equivalent to about \$5,000. Furthermore, he said, they did not receive any share of the fish they caught on their ill-fated fishing trip, since they were all thrown away because of contamination by radioactive fallout.

The only other mention he made of compensation was that some of the fishermen who were married received a small additional amount. Furthermore, he added, he is paid for this trip to Chiba-shi in Tokyo where he receives an annual examination from Dr. Kumatori.

PAST COMPENSATION--RONGELAP AND UTIRIK

While the people of Rongelap and Utirik were not as lucky as the fishermen of the Lucky Dragon in receiving compensation for their exposure as a result of the fallout from the Bravo H-Bomb test, they did receive--varying kinds and at different times forms of assistance, and compensation. The kinds of "compensation" are described in the following pages.

Payment for loss of personal possessions

When personnel of Joint Task Force Seven shepherded the frightened Rongelapese and Utirikese off their home islands and ancestral land with the admonition that if they remained they would die, they were told not to take anything with them. Later, they were asked to fill out forms describing what personal goods they had lost during the time the Utirikese (three months) and Rongelapese (three years) were away from their islands. Those who filled out the papers were then paid the stated value of the possessions. The Committee was shown a copy of an example of this form on Utirik and reproduces it for the record below:

"Statement of claim for Personal Injury or Damage or loss to Property."

1. Name Kabotbot, K. Age M-24
2. Address _____
Island 'Utirik' Atoll 'Utirik'
3. Basis of your claim: the following personal injury or loss or damage to property was a result of the Test Activities of Task Force Seven on 1 March 1954:

(kin un eo im Maron Konono Kake: Armij rein Lajrak tok ilol tok im rejoko ak jorran men ko mweier itok tokjen Jerbal in Kokomalmel eo an Task Force Kenkajiljilimjuon ilo 1 March 1954)

4.	<u>Item</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Total</u>
	16 Bag MakMok	\$ 2.00	\$ 32.00
	6 Dresses	1.80	10.00
	1 towel	1.50	1.50
	6 pants	3.60	21.60
	3 shirts	2.50	7.50
	4 T.shirts	.75	3.00
	3 towels	.35	1.05
			\$ 77.45

Witness

/s/ P.W. Steele
P.W. Steele
Island Affairs Officer
19 Jan 55

/s/ Kabotbot, K.
Kabotbot, K.
19 Jan 55

The man who presented his claim said that all who filled out the form got paid. Dr. Isaac Lanwi explained about the form at that time.

Payment for loss of copra not made

During the three months the Utirikese were on Kwajalein after the incident, they were paid approximately \$400 per month for copra which they were unable to make due to their displacement. This worked out to about \$7 per person. The Rongelapese, who were later relocated from Kwajalein to Aijit in the Majuro lagoon, also received similar compensation. The Committee found to be a constant source of complaint the amount of this money. The people of Rongelap, for instance, say that they only received \$240 every three months for copra. This works out roughly to \$1 per person per month and does not include those who might have joined family members on Aijit during the three years. The following exchange regarding this problem between the committees and the people of Rongelap was recorded on Majuro, July 16, 1971.

Q: Was that Compensation enough?

A: "The amount we had agreed to with Amata Kabua was 8 1/2 million in the lawsuit."

- Q: Did you ask for compensation before 1964?
- A: "In 1957 when John and Biliet went to Chicago for special treatment they contacted a lawyer in Hawaii (notes not clear), asked for compensation for everything, land, trees, people."
- Q: When you received compensation (\$10,400) did you know what it was for?
- A: "Only for people affected."
- Q: Did you ask for compensation before you talked to the lawyer?
- A: "Told Amata Kabua to ask T.T."
- Q: Reply?
- A: "To my understanding, Administration did not want to get involved."
- Q: When in Kwajalein did the government provide food?
- A: "Government allowed \$1,100 a month for food and there were about 180 people living on Aijit. Other aid included \$240 every three months as compensation for copra we could have made. The government estimated 2 1/2 tons every three months. We had no say in the matter. The government determined it. During those days the island produced more than that."
- Q: How long was copra payment made?
- A: "During stay on Aijit. Amount was so small that I (John Anjain) held until two payments, then gave everyone \$2.00 per person. When we left for Rongelap copra payments ended."
- Q: Was there other aid?
- A: "They built houses on Aijit and Rongelap."
- Q: Were you happy on Aijit?
- A: "No. Small island, few coconuts, not enough. We had to stretch food money. Usually run out at the end and have to borrow from next month's money. We asked for more, but there was no reply from the administration."
- Q: When you returned to Rongelap, could you live like before?
- A: "Yes, but could not eat coconut crabs. They gave us the same number of chickens and pigs to replace those killed. We didn't produce copra until 5 to 6 months after returning." (It was noted later that many chickens and pigs died later, presumably because they were imported and were not used to scavenging for food in an island location.)

Q: Did you receive any compensation for trees, etc.?

A: "No. But we saw a surprising phenomenon: coconut trees with three or four heads. Previously we produced 30-40 tons of copra for three months. Then the Japanese destroyed all. It was just coming up in 1954."

Q: Receive any other compensation?

A: "Yes. \$5,030 total for personal belongings, received in Aijit."

Q: How many people were stuck outside Rongelap and couldn't return?

A: "300 some. These people although not living on Rongelap considered Rongelap their home because they were born there and had land there."

The people of Rongelap estimated that they could have produced 10 tons of copra per month and the people of Utirik estimated that they could have produced 30-40 tons for the three-month period.

The average price for copra at that time was about \$100 per ton for the outer-islands, this would yield a figure of about \$3,000 for three months production of copra as opposed to the \$240 per three months the people were given.

Compensation from the U.S. Government for the Rongelapese

The story which leads to the conclusion of how the people of Rongelap received compensation from the United States is a long one in terms of distances, for the original incident took place in the Marshalls, and subsequent events took place elsewhere in Micronesia, on Guam, then in New York, and finally Washington, D.C. before the story is completed. The story also spans a length of time equal to the distances between the cities mentioned--in stark contrast to the speedy payment of \$2,000,000 to the Japanese Government barely less than 10 months after the incident occurred--for it was nearly 10 years before this money was appropriated by the U.S. Congress and some time later before the people actually

received payment.

The following narrative summary of some of the events connected to the eventual payment are contained in a report of the AEC general manager, a Mr. DeRenzis. This report developed as a consequence of a letter from Representative Ataji Balos to Senator Henry M. Jackson of the U.S. Congress. Senator Jackson asked the AEC to reply to certain charges made by Representative Balos and the result was a 12-page report, with lengthy agenda. The language and tone of this section of the report, gives some indication of the AEC's attitude toward the whole issue as of March 20, 1972.

"Non-Medical Problems which Relate to the Medical Surveys"

"Possibly the most troublesome problem originates from a legal complaint styled Abia et al v. United States, Trial Division, High Court Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. This was received by the High Commissioner in Guam with the request that he effect service upon the United States. In essence it sought a sum of \$8,500,000 for property damage, radiation sickness, burns, physical and mental agony, loss of consortium, and medical expenses (past, present, future, and undetermined) by virtue of negligence on the part of the United States in the Bravo detonation. The process was never served because a Court had held that the Trust Territory (Kwajalein) constituted a foreign country and therefore jurisdiction was lacking (253 F. 2d 838 (C.A. 2 1958) and (357 U.S. 938). A plea did reach the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations on April 28, 1960. This led the Department of State to favor the

introduction of legislation in the Congress of the United States to provide relief for the people of Rongelap, the compensation being based on humanitarian principles.

*Mr. Wayne Aspinall introduced the Bill H.R. 1988 to provide for settlement of claims of certain residents of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. It was reported out favorably by H.R. 110, March 21, 1963 (to accompany H.R. 1988) and by S. Rept. 1257, July 29, 1964 (to accompany H.R. 1988 with amendment) and became Public Law 88-485, 88th Congress, H.R. 1988, August 22, 1964. In brief it authorized payment by the Secretary of the Interior of \$950,000 less fees for legal services to the 82 inhabitants of Rongelap, or to their survivors, affected by radiation exposures sustained following the thermonuclear detonation of March 1, 1954. This payment was made in full settlement and discharge of all claims against the United States arising out of the detonation. Each exposed individual or his heirs received approximately \$11,000 as a lump sum.

*The people on Utirik who received 14 roentgens are said to feel that they had been discriminated against vis-a-vis the Rongelapese: They also were removed to Majuro, examined, tested, and taken back to their atoll; and while their exposure fortunately was low, they desired at least a token payment, perhaps in proportion to dose. No one appears to have taken their point of view seriously until recently¹.

Copies of the committee reports from the House and Senate mentioned, reveal some details which are interesting. The original bill as

introduced by Representative Aspinall, was to set up a fund from which the people of Rongelap would receive annually the interest only, and upon special request, payments from the principle.

The bill was subsequently amended to appropriate the sum of \$950,000 which would be made in direct payments to the people--less a 5 percent attorney's fee. Both committee reports included a statement dated March 15, 1963 from then Assistant Secretary of the Department of State to the chairman which said in part:

"As you know, the Department of State strongly supports this bill. We are grateful to you for introducing it so promptly at this session of Congress and most earnestly hope that it will be speedily approved. You recall of course, the great interest the United Nations Trusteeship Council has taken in this matter. At its session last summer, the Council again expressed its view that, the need for the most expeditious settlement of these claims cannot be over emphasized.*** The Department of State believes this to be true as much for reasons of our national interests as to satisfy the requirements of the Trusteeship Council.

"The Trusteeship Council will meet again in May and we hope that by that time this bill might be well on its way to enactment. The Department of State will, of course, be happy to assist you and your committee in any way you might desire."

Of particular interest to the Special Joint Committee are two sections of another statement which were made part of the House and Senate committee reports.

The identical statements were from John A. Carver, Jr., Assistant Secretary of the Interior and were dated March 14, 1963. The statement is of interest in the light that House of Representatives Bill No. 1988 (HR 1988) states that--

"Sec. 4. A payment made under the provisions of this act shall be in full settlement and discharge of all claims against the United States arising out of the thermonuclear detonation on March 1, 1954."

Despite the finality of the language of the act, the Assistant Secretary's letter in part, read as follows:

"There is, to date, no evidence of leukemia nor of radiation illness. Further, whether or not the radiation has had any life-shortening effects is not apparent. It does appear, however, that bone development in young children who were affected by the fallout may have been retarded, and also that there is a possibility of a somewhat greater incidence of miscarriages and stillbirths among the exposed women. Neither sufficient time has elapsed nor sufficient knowledge acquired to permit positive conclusions to be drawn as to the long-range effect of the fallout on the Rongelapese.

* Compensation in various forms has been paid to the affected individuals. They have been provided extensive medical care and treatment, and they continue to receive periodic examinations and treatment. They were, of course, provided housing and subsistence from the time of their evacuation until their return to Rongelap. Since their return, in addition to new houses, a school, a church, a community building, and other facilities, they have been given new livestock and agricultural aid, as well as subsistence in decreasing amounts. Small claims for property losses, such as clothing and handtools, were paid by the Department of Defense soon after the event. These claims were paid in a total amount of \$6,869.

" In February 1960 a complaint against the United States was sent to the high court of the Trust Territory by attorneys for the Rongelapese. The complaint sought \$8,500,000 as compensation for property damage, radiation sickness, burns, physical and mental agony, loss of consortium, and medical expenses. In January 1961 the suit was dismissed for lack of jurisdiction.

" The interested agencies of the executive branch, specifically the Department of State, the Department of Justice, the Atomic Energy Commission, and this Department, recognize, that despite the various forms of assistance and compensation provided the affected individuals, they have not obtained redress in terms of all the types of injury they may have sustained. They have not received any payments, as such, for claims based upon pain or suffering in connection with their physical injuries or their necessary but summary removal from their home island for over three years or their natural concern about their own future or that of their children.

" We cannot say with any certainty that there will be no future illness or death and no diminution in life expectancy which can be attributed to the 1954 fallout. The problem is further complicated in terms of what measure of damage in monetary terms is appropriate considering the nature of their culture and their economy.

" The extent to which claims might be legally compensable at this time should not, in our view, be controlling in any event. You will recall that the United States made an ex gratia payment of \$2 million to the Japanese Government on account of claims arising out of the 1954 fallout on a Japanese fishing boat and its crew. The Japanese Government was responsible for determining how the money should be distributed. We believe that the circumstances here also justify assumption by the United States of "compassionate responsibility" and a monetary payment. "

Through the courtesy of Senator Henry M. Jackson, Chairman Olympio T. Borja of the Special Joint Committee received a copy of certain testimony before the Territorial and Insular Affairs Subcommittee with regard to HR 1988. The testimony was from a vice-president of the Marshall Islands Congress, Amata Kabua (now Senator Kabua of the Congress of Micronesia). Senator Kabua had arranged for the lawsuit against the United States, and Mr. Dwight Heine (now Special Consultant to the High Commissioner) brought the case of the Rongelapese before the United Nations Trusteeship Council. Senator Kabua demonstrates in his

testimony the apparent satisfaction--short of lawsuit--his constituents had with the settlement, and also demonstrated the fact that he, as well as Dr. Conard and others were unaware that soon thyroid disorders would begin appearing, and that some eight years later, LekoJ Anjain would die of leukemia in Bethesda, Maryland.

Testimony before the committee follows: (edited)

Gentlemen, we are very pleased to hear from you this morning and you may proceed as you may care to.

Do you have a written statement, Doctor?

Mr. Anjain: No. Sir:

Senator Church: Very well, why do you not proceed to testify as you would care to and then if we have questions we will put them to you afterwards.

STATEMENT OF AMATA KABUA, PRESIDENT OF MARSHALL ISLANDS
IMPORT-EXPORT COMPANY AND VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE CONGRESS OF
THE MARSHALL ISLANDS. ACCOMPANIED BY DR. JETON ANJAIN.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

My name is Amata Kabua. I am from the Marshall Islands, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. I presently hold the position of the President of Marshall Islands Import-Export Company, and also serve as Vice-President of the Congress of the Marshall Islands and a member of the Council of Micronesia which represents the views and wishes of the people and advises the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands on matters pertaining to the administration of the territory.

My colleagues and I were chosen by the people of the Marshall Islands to convey to you their greetings and to represent them in their sentiments regarding the two vitally important bills having been brought by the Administration before the United States Senate for deliberation and consideration. They are H.R. 3198 relative to promotion of economic and social development of the Trust Territory, and H.R. 1988, which provides for compensation and settlement of Rongelapese injury claims. . .

I am happy to state also that House of Representatives 1988 has been reviewed and received with gratitude. The Rongelapese claimants have asked me to deliver to you their acceptance of said bill with an earnest plea for its adoption by the United States Congress.

Mr. Chairman, on behalf of my colleagues may I take this opportunity to extend to you all our sincere appreciation and gratitude for this privilege given us to convey to you the wishes of the Marshallese people.

I will be most pleased to answer any questions which the committee may want to ask.

Thank you, sir.

Senator Church: Thank you very much. Doctor, do you have a statement that you would like to make before we proceed with questions?

Mr. Anjain: No, sir.

Senator Church: Senator Walters?

Senator Walters: How many people are located on this one island that you are talking about here?

Senator Church: Rongelap. What is the population on Rongelap Island, approximately?

Mr. Kabua: Approximately at the present time it is about 180 people.

Senator Church: These were, you will recall, Senator, the people that were exposed to some radioactive fall-out some years ago and the purpose of the bill is to confer damages for the physical effects of that fall-out.

Senator Walters: Did any of them die as a result of this?

Mr. Kabua: Well, according to the report by the Administration, sir, no one has died of the effects from the fall-out. They died of other causes, but not directly because of the fall-out.

Senator Church: Many were sick for an extended period and there were evidences of burns, as I understand it, and loss of hair and this kind of thing, but the full extent of the injury has not been finally determined by the medical people. Is that not correct?

Mr. Kabua: That is correct, sir.

Senator Church: We have a medical survey of the situation, the latest one is published in January 1963, Senator, of the medical effects of the fall-out.

Senator Nelson: In this bill, Mr. Chairman, I have not glanced at it, the one we are talking about provides for an allocation of compensation to individuals directly?

Senator Church: We have the bills passed originally which would establish a trust whereby the funds would be administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the Department, and we have a substitute

proposal which would authorize the direct payment of \$11,000 to each person entitled to such a payment and without further control by the Secretary; that is, it would eliminate the trust fund provision and make direct payment to each individual entitled.

We would like to have your opinion, gentlemen, on a direct distribution of the money as opposed to the establishment of a trust fund to be administered by the Government.

Mr. Kabua: Well, Mr. Chairman, I think the wishes of the people are that they want to receive the money directly rather than have it in a trust fund administered by this--

Senator Church: Well, gentlemen, we are hopeful to move this legislation along. There has been considerable delay but your testimony will be most helpful to us.

Senator Nelson: Is this an equal payment of \$11,000 to each claimant?

Senator Walters: I think that is right; that is the way I read the bill.

Senator Church: Yes, that is my understanding.

If this bill were passed and the per capita distribution were made of \$11,000, in your judgement would this be regarded as a satisfactory settlement insofar as these people are concerned preferable to any court action or anything of that kind that might be undertaken in lieu of a bill of this sort?

Mr. Kabua: Yes, Sir, I think other than getting to the court action this would be most satisfactory to the people.

Senator Church: Do you think that there is any likelihood that if this bill is passed that we will be faced at some later date with further claims?

Mr. Kabua: Are you referring, sir, to the same set of people?

Senator Church: The same people.

Mr. Kabua: No, sir; definitely not.

Senator Nelson: Did the people who were injured and who are beneficiaries under this bill meet as a group and agree that this was a satisfactory settlement?

Mr. Kabua: Yes. This is a very--when I say close society, it is not open, but everybody knows everybody there, and every big move they meet altogether and they decide.

This particular bill only affects the 80 people that were injured, but the other people usually sit and advise them because it is a small community on that island.

Senator Nelson: But all of the injured did meet and discuss this bill and agree that it was a satisfactory settlement?

Mr. Kabua: Yes, sir; before we made the trip to the United States the Navy flew us down to Rongelap, Dr. Anjain and I, and we held a meeting with the people there.

Senator Nelson: You are satisfied they understood everything in this bill?

Mr. Kabua: Well, in general they understand the intent of the bill, that the United States is considering making or paying compensation for the injuries by the nuclear bomb fall-out in the amount of \$950,000.

Senator Nelson: Do the individual recipients understand the value, all of them, of that \$11,000?

Mr. Kabua: I am sure they do sir.

Other Kinds and Forms of Compensation

As has been noted elsewhere in places in this report, the people of Rongelap and Utirik received other kinds of "compensation" during their removal from their islands. The Rongelapese and Utirikese were housed and fed on Kwajalein, received copra payments, and eventually received payment for loss of personal possessions. The Rongelapese had new dwellings built on Aijit, and continued to receive a copra payment, a payment for food, and cast off clothing (most of which was for men, much to the distress of the women from Rongelap).

Before returning to Rongelap, the AEC contracted with Holmes and Narver and constructed at a cost of about \$300,000 new buildings on Rongelap. The people were also given pigs and chickens to replace those which either died or were taken by the AEC and used in medical experiments, as well as some imported food and by one report, a 16-foot boat upon departure of the team which returned them to the island.

DISCUSSION

Other Incidents

One of the great ironies with which mankind is faced is the fact that what is usually conceded as the greatest strength of a thing, or a person, or a plan, is also coincidentally its greatest weakness.

For example, computers are noted for their great efficiency -- yet their greatest "weakness" in the eyes of many people is that they lack human qualities. In pure physical terms a diamond is one of the most durable minerals known, yet it can be shattered into uselessness with relative ease. The same holds true with the harnessing of the power of the atom. While it can be used to solve many of mankind's problems, it also can create problems through its use.

This is nowhere better demonstrated than the incident of the Bravo shot and the misery which it caused--all in the name of peace and freedom. This double-edged aspect of nuclear energy has been demonstrated time and again by the fear of its uncontrolled use or improper or unsafe use as evidenced by anti-nuclear weapons groups, environmentalists fighting the placement of nuclear reactors, and those opposed to the billions of dollars spent for nuclear weapons research and testing. This fear is a very valid one and acknowledged even by the governments, including the United States, which condone and perpetuate its use. Examples of this concern include such incidents as the crash on January 21, 1968 of a B-52 carrying nuclear warheads in Greenland. This incident excited a

tremendous amount of activity directed toward recovering the fissionable material.

Another incident occurred on January 17, 1966 over Spain, when a KC 135 (a plane used to refuel B-52s) and a B-52 carrying hydrogen warheads collided. As a result of the collision, four nuclear warheads were lost.

One bomb was found in the Mediterranean Sea, and others were located in the Village of Palomares and apparently fissionable material escaped, contaminating the soil around the village. As a result, the United States spent three months scraping off topsoil and loading it into steel drums. The topsoil was then replaced with new soil, and today, 4,879 drums of Spanish soil are stored in South Carolina on U.S. soil. Furthermore, the United States brought back contaminated ice from the Greenland incident.

It is reported that claims paid to the people of Palomares were less than one million dollars, even though the decontamination efforts cost about \$15 million. Furthermore, the Spanish Government withheld a claim for damages for 15-30 years. It is eminently clear that concern by the United States and other countries is of the greatest dimension.

This concern is not only for humanitarian concerns, but also because nuclear "incidents" (the AEC term for accidents) can be extremely costly in terms of money. The law which created the Atomic Energy Commission and amendments to the law provide that the AEC can indemnify any contractor with it for the amount of \$500,000,000 for each incident

within the United States and \$100,000,000 for each incident outside the United States (USCA 42 S 2210 (e)).

An example of the actual cost of such an incident can be found in the AEC publication "Operational Accidents and Radiation Exposure Experience Within the...1943-1970." (Fall, 1971):

"1. FIRE-ROCKY FLATS

Golden, Colorado, May 11, 1969 \$45,000,000. The AEC's costliest fire, and largest property loss incident, occurred at a plant which produces plutonium parts for nuclear weapons..."Financial loss for the damage to building and contents includes the cost of decontamination. There were no lost-time injuries to personnel."

Other incidents ran from \$4 to \$1 million and it was noted that "Few AEC accidents/typically three per year...result in a loss of \$50,000 or more; however, these infrequent occurrences have cumulatively inflicted about 90 percent or more of the aggregate loss suffered to date." The Rocky Flats figure represented 56 percent of the claims up to 1970.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE 1954 INCIDENT

For the record, there is no doubt in the mind of the Special Joint Committee that the United States Government was responsible for what has happened to the people of Rongelap and Utirik. This was clearly spelled out in its previous report to the Congress of Micronesia in 1973. There also is no question in the minds of the people of

Utirik and Rongelap themselves. House Resolution 1988 states that the "Congress hereby assumes compassionate responsibility to compensate inhabitants in the Rongelap Atoll...for radiation exposures sustained by them as a result" of the 1954 incident. In section four of the act (78 Stat. 598) it states that "A payment made under the provisions of this act shall be in full settlement and discharge of all claims against the United States arising out of the thermonuclear detonation on March 1, 1954."

As the Committee interprets "compassionate responsibility" not to mean "direct responsibility" or "direct liability" for the incident, but rather a humanitarian responsibility to "compensate" rather than an admission of direct responsibility for the incident itself. Despite this "compassion" shown by the U.S. Government, however, it is noted that payment of a claim would supposedly free it from further claim by the affected inhabitants. The Committee notes that this act does not include claims by or on behalf of the children of the "inhabitants" nor does it include the people of Utirik.

The Committee believes that the provisions of the law become invalid in consideration of events which subsequently took place after payment of "compassionate compensation" was made. The case of thyroid disorders, the fatal case of leukemia, and the uncertain future of the health of these people are facts which all belie the attempt to prohibit future claims. Furthermore, the Committee notes that while the language of the law attempts to be final with respect to future claims, that the compensation is for "radiation exposures," to inhabitants and not for

radiation illnesses to the people or exposure of the islands and waters of Rongelap.

AREAS OF COMPENSATION

The Committee believes that there are two areas in which it is supremely evident that illness was directly caused by exposure to radiation and which merit compensation. These are: those who have developed thyroid abnormalities and who have been treated for them either through medication or surgery and the death of Leko J Anjain from leukemia.

There are also other areas in the category of illness, and in the area of exposure which merit compensation, even though direct causal relationships between exposure and damage may not be clear. These include temporary sterility, miscarriages, and life shortening and certain psychological effects, and also exposure of lands and waters, flora and fauna, (Copra) With regard to the latter category of compensation it, may be asserted by some--scientists for example--that it cannot be proven that "damage" was done to trees, animals, etc., by exposure, except perhaps in the case of the coconut crabs on Rongelap, which were not damaged, but rather denied to the people of Rongelap because of the high concentrations of SR 90 and CS 137 which they contain.

The Committee is all too aware of the difficulty--even perhaps impossibility--of "proving" that damage was, indeed, done. However, it recalls the phrase from its last report (p. 41) concerning the giving of radioactive materials to patients that the "prudent assumption" is that "all ionizing radiation to the patient is harmful". Consequently,

the Committee position that whether or not "damage" can be proven is irrelevant, since it is a fact that exposure occurred, and that since exposure to radiation is harmful, then it is highly probable that damage did indeed occur. Therefore the assumption of the Committee is that exposure itself--which is well documented--is basis, or grounds enough for compensation and that damage as such need not necessarily be proven.

Psychological Effects of the 1954 Incident.

During the annual examination by Dr. Conard in March 1973, the Committee passed out questionnaires to the Rongelapese and Utirikese living on Majuro, Ebeye, Rongelap and Utirik. These questionnaires and the results they yielded should not be assumed to be scientifically accurate, or statistically significant. The results are valuable, however, for they confirm certain general impressions received by the Committee from the Rongelapese and Utirikese. Of 35 exposed Rongelapese people who filled out questionnaires, 23 said they did not understand what had happened and 26 said that no one explained the incident to them. When asked if they felt sick after returning to their island 30 people responded in the affirmative.

Eleven women gave a positive reply to the question "Did you ever have a baby or babies born dead or born with something wrong after the bomb," and 19 women said they knew of other women who had such problems. The question was asked if they knew of anyone that they thought had died from the bomb and 24 responded "yes", listing the following people: Leko, Jenwor Anjain, Hiroshi Kelminli, Leko Hiroshi, Jerlan, Jekkein,

Ikuak, Wetak, Marta, Lisa, Froji, Jenit, Kija, Likuak, Katae, Lukma, and Bekire. Of the 35 people, seven had had operations on their thyroids and six of these seven noted that they felt sick after the operation. Of the 35, 20 stated that they generally have poor health. To the question of "When you get sick, what do you think about?" Some 31 people answered "the bomb" and 28 people felt they should have received more money for their sicknesses and the deaths of the people.

Again, 31 people responded with a "yes" when answering the question of they worried about getting sick from the bomb in the future and when asked to classify in terms of frequency of their worry, 18 said "All the time", three said "a lot" and 12 said "sometimes." Thirty-one said that they knew other people that worried about the bomb and 30 said that they "felt about the same."

Furthermore, 26 people said that they worried that their children might get sick from the bomb. Of extreme interest to the Committee and, to Dr. Conard and the AEC, 34 people of the 35 said that they were still afraid to eat all local food because of the bomb. When asked if they had had property or other things damaged by the fallout, the following items by people, the number of which follows the items, were listed: land 18, crabs 8, pandanus 11, arrowroot 13, chickens 20, papaya 11, breadfruit 15, and trees 17. Some 29 people said that they were still afraid to live on their island; 24 people said this was because of the contamination.

Thirty people of the 35 stated that they thought they did not receive enough compensation for copra and 28 people felt that they should

receive additional money from the AEC. When asked if there was anything else they wanted to tell the Committee, the respondents requested the following: free transportation to hospitals; food during the examination; their old houses should be rehabilitated or new ones built; new water catchments should be constructed; compensation should be settled and compensation should be given for pigs, land, and medical examinations.

Some 68 people from Utirik filled out questionnaires and their answers-- despite their different exposure--generally followed that pattern of the Rongelapese. For example, to the question "When you get sick, what do you think about?" 54 of the 68 responded "the bomb," and when asked if they knew of someone who died as a result of the bomb, 42 people answered with the following names: Bila, Nili, Sarah, Obet, Anexsay, Liblilla, Neila, Marg, Navmi, Arbella, Tien, Anjain, Hlghishi and Lekoj. The question if they knew of people who got sick from the bomb included the name of Nellie, who, according to Dr. Conard did not receive her thyroid cancer from fallout. Furthermore, many of the names of people who were listed as sick from the bomb, also were included in those who died from the bomb. Lastly, some 82 Rongelapese and Utirikese not exposed to the bomb filled out questionnaires, and their answers follow those of the exposed people with regard to many areas. Fifty unexposed people claim that they felt sick after returning to their island, 41 people think of the bomb when they get sick, 59 worry about getting sick in the future, and 63 worry that their children might get sick from the bomb in the future. An amazing 72 people of 82 said

that they were still afraid to eat local food, 52 were still afraid to live on the island because of the contamination 20 years ago and 67 stated they believed that they should get more money from the AEC for such things as damage to land, trees, crops, and so forth.

Because of the nature of the responses to the questionnaire prepared by the Committee it appears to be several well-documented lasting effects of the original exposure 20 years ago to fallout. In the area of their exposure experience, it is clear that they did not understand what had happened and that the lack of information which has prevailed, has caused the people to conclude that when a person gets sick, it was from the fallout, and furthermore, that any person who has died since the fallout, died as a result of the fallout. It is also clear that the people do worry quite a lot as a result of their experience, not only for themselves, but also for their children.

The people also believe that they have received inadequate compensation in the past and look forward to additional compensation in the future, not only for illness, but for a whole spectrum of complaints. What is perhaps the most interesting fact is that the exposed and unexposed alike are still afraid to eat local food or live on their islands. It is as though the fear of illness from contamination persists in their minds like the residual radiation which still exists in the food chains and ecology of the islands.

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

COMPENSATION--LESS OR MORE DEPENDENCE AND DISRUPTION

In considering the case for compensation for the people of Rongelap and Utirik, the Committee is aware of a fundamental concern. This concern is similar to the one which it entertains with respect to increased medical attention to the people of Rongelap and Utirik. Not only would more frequent and more comprehensive examinations cause more disruption of the island, but more frequent attention may also have a negative effect by making the people worry more about their future health.

In a similar fashion, compensation, while it may have its salutary affects, may also have its negative influences. In 1972, Dr. William Peck, then Director of Health Services, voiced his concern about the Rongelapese. Dr. Peck had, in 1958, been an observer on Rongelap during a series of nuclear tests. He had also visited the island 10 years later in 1968, after the people had received compensation. He had noted that in 1958 the people still used canoes, and appeared to be pretty much self-sufficient, but in 1968 he saw no more canoes and only broken down outboard engines which apparently the people had purchased with their compensation. While their compensation may have contributed to this decline in self-reliance (and for the record, the Committee has noted that there are many sailing canoes still in use by the people on Utirik who received no compensation)--the same could also be said for many islands in Micronesia during the same ten-year period. It is obvious that the shift from the use of canoes to outboard motors was a general one and it is still taking place.

The question which the Committee has considered is what kind and what amount of compensation can be given to the people which will be adequate and satisfactory to them, and at the same time will not make them more dependent upon such outside aid. Regular monthly payments, like the Japanese receive for example, would make the people severely dependent upon compensation. On the other hand, some may even argue that no large lump amount of compensation should be given to the people for they will not spend it wisely. After considerable debate and discussion in which many alternatives were explored, the Committee made the following conclusions with regard to compensation. First, fiscal responsibility--the manner in which the people use such compensation received--is not a matter of concern for the Committee; furthermore, placing some sort of restraint or limitation on compensation based upon the pre-supposition that the money will not be used wisely is not warranted. During the visits and talks with the people, it was learned that many of the people no longer had any money left from the original \$10,000--however, it did find persons who said that they still had some of the money in the bank, which, considering that it was almost 20 years from the original compensation, shows a fair amount of fiscal restraint. In short, what the people do with the money is up to them.

During its investigations, the Committee heard many times that compensation should be placed in a trust fund. The Committee has considered this possibility with the reminder that the Bikini and Eniwetok Trust Funds have been inadequate, and inadequately managed.

Consequently, the Committee was faced with these aspects, as well as

how to compensate many individuals for their exposure, later illnesses, and also for their land, trees, the waters of the lagoon and its marine life. The conclusions in this report will spell out how the committee feels that all of these can be done with, hopefully, satisfaction to all parties involved.

CONCLUSION

Basis for Compensation

At the outset, the Committee wishes to note that unlike the Japanese in Hiroshima and Nagasaki who along with their countrymen were at war with the United States, and unlike the Japanese fisherman on the Lucky Dragon whose presence in Micronesia was unknown, the people of Rongelap and Utirik were innocent victims of error and negligence on the part of the United States.

This is further compounded by the fact that the United States was acting as a trustee at the time of the incident, a trustee which was charged with a "sacred trust" and to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the people of Micronesia and to also protect their lands, their health and foster their general welfare. The Rongelapese and Utirikese were not belligerents in a war and unlike the participants in the test series, they were uninformed, unadvised, unprepared innocent bystanders who were injured and affected as a result of the pursuit of certain national policies and programs by the United States Government. Additionally, in considering the amount of compensation due these people, the Committee discards the kind of reasoning used as a basis for war claims, i.e., the economic value of a human life, or the economic impairment or loss suffered by injury and medical treatment. Many factors other than the economy of Micronesia or potential earning power of an individual must be taken into account. In terms of personal injuries, these factors are: pain and suffering-including future pain and suffering, ill health or disability, loss of enjoyment (loss of potency, ability to bear children), possible shortening of life expectancy, miscarriages, still births and births of deformed children, loss of hair

and disfiguration, mental distress, and anguish or suffering-- including the fear of returning and staying on Rongelap and Utirik.

In terms of property damage, consideration must be given to temporary or permanent damage to real property, damages to trees, crops, fish, etc; loss of use of property (including the atolls of Rongelap and Utirik), and loss of profits due to loss of use of real or personal property.

The Committee holds that the United States Government was negligent and that this negligence resulted in the people being exposed to radioactive fallout and that the fallout was the proximate or sole cause of the injuries to the people of Rongelap and Utirik and to their properties. Furthermore, the Committee notes that additional tests were carried out after the people were returned and that they were further exposed to additional radiation which may have aggravated their condition.

Compensation

The Committee thus recommends the following kinds and amounts of compensation.

For the death of Leko J Anjain, the Committee recommends that the amounts of \$50,000 be paid each to his real mother and father and that this money be disposed of in accordance with their wishes.

For those people who have had thyroid operations because of radiation-induced disease, the Committee recommends that the sum of \$25,000 each be paid to the persons affected.

For the people of Utirik who were displaced from their island for three months, the Committee recommends the payment of \$1,000 each as an "inconvenience payment" to supplement the amount of \$116 offered by the Atomic Energy Commission.

For all other damages and injuries, of persons and of properties, past and future, the Committee recommends the following: a fund of indeterminate life in the amount of \$25,000 per annum for the Rongelap Atoll and a fund of indeterminate life in the amount of \$25,000 for Utirik Atoll be established as in addition to, but part of, the annual Grant Fund Appropriations from the United States Congress. This money will be used to fund community projects on the atolls of Rongelap and Utirik as voted and determined by the municipal councils of the islands. Provision shall be made to replenish in the succeeding fiscal year from the annual grant fund appropriations, any amount which has been expended or obligated from the preceding fiscal year, in order that the amount available at the beginning of each fiscal year will be \$25,000. It is felt by the Committee that such a fund will help to compensate the people for their personal physical and proprietary losses or damages which they have actually suffered, and also for those damages which cannot be specifically determined; it is also designed to help promote self-sufficiency, rather than more dependence as might be possibly encouraged by monthly or other periodic payments of small sums of money; it is further designed to encourage those Rongelapese and Utirikese who have emmigrated from their islands to district centers and other areas in search of employment, to return to their homes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In light of the above, the Committee recommends that;

1. The United States Congress authorize and appropriate money to pay compensation to the Rongelapese who have had operations for radiation-

induced thyroid disorders. for the death of Miss [Name], [Address]

~~two \$25,000 funds as described previously. This legislation shall be~~

two \$25,000 funds as described previously. This legislation shall be open-ended and a procedure shall be established whereby payments can be provided to those additional persons who may develop illnesses in the future after the individual compensation recommended in this report is paid.

2. The Trust Territory Government, in conjunction with the United States Congress shall establish within the annual grant fund appropriations, funds as described above. The money for these two \$25,000 funds shall not come out of the normal budgetary ceiling for the civil administration of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, but shall be in addition to such ceiling/s/ and no part of the funds shall be subject to transfer to another account or project by the High Commissioner, or any other government official. Furthermore, there shall be no limit of time that this fund shall be available annually shall be subject to amendment according to the needs of the people and economic effects including, but not limited to, inflation.

3. Should the United States Government fail or prove unwilling to follow these specific guidelines for compensation, the Committee recommends that the people of Rongelap and Utirik engage legal counsel, such as that offered by the Micronesian Legal Services Corporation, and that this legal counsel file a class action suit against the United States Government to recover the amounts suggested by the Committee to be used in the manner suggested by the Committee, or any amounts to be used in any manner as deemed appropriate by the people of Rongelap and Utirik.

4. Because of the persisting concern by the exposed and unexposed people of Rongelap and Utirik alike concerning the consumption of all local food on their islands and atolls and concerning living on said islands and atolls, it is strongly recommended that the United States Government sponsor an independent, internationally-staffed radioecological survey of the Rongelap and Utirik Atolls and to present the findings and conclusions in the Marshallese Language to the people of Rongelap and Utirik.

5. Assuming that funds are established for the Rongelap and Utirik Atolls as recommended, it is recommended that agencies of the Trust Territory Government including, but not limited to, the Divisions of Community Development, Marine Resources, and Agriculture give technical and such other advice as may be necessary and proper to the people of Rongelap and Utirik in utilizing money from these funds to the best possible community purposes.

6. It is recommended that the Special Joint Committee continue to assist the people of Rongelap and Utirik by providing information to them concerning its recommendations and concerning the exposure of the people and of the two atolls and damages caused thereto, for the express purpose of forwarding this information or assisting in any way possible such legal counsel as the people may engage should events warrant legal proceedings. The Committee shall also assist the Marshall Islands District Government, including the Nitijela, in taking greater role in handling future claims or complaints of the people of Rongelap and Utirik.

In the 1973 report on Medical Aspects of the March 1, 1954 incident, the Special Joint Committee made certain recommendations. what follows is a listing of those recommendations and what action--or lack of action--has taken place. This material has also been included in a summary of that past report which has been translated into the Marshallese language, to better inform the people of Utirik and Rongelap of what the Committee has suggested and what has been done.

United Nations

The Committee recommended that a committee of the United Nations which works with scientific matters issue an annual report on such exposed people as the people of the Marshalls, the Americans and the Japanese. Also that scientific meetings on this subject be held, which was recommended by Dr. Kumatori. The Joint Committee has forwarded this recommendation to the United Nations, but has not had an answer.

Atomic Energy Commission

1. The Committee recommended that the AEC find another doctor to replace Dr. Knudsen. We made this recommendation both to insure better care for the people of Rongelap and Utirik, and also to help take some of the worry away from their minds because they would know that medical assistance would be available to them when the doctor comes on the field trip ship. The AEC and Dr. Conard, and Dr. Kumangai of the Trust Territory have all promised to find another doctor when Dr. Knudsen leaves Micronesia.

2. The Committee also recommended, because two doctors, Dr. Kumatori and Dr. Cole from the United States also recommended it, that a hospital ship should visit the islands regularly.

We understand from Dr. Conard that the Army will make available a LCU for surveys of Rongelap and Utirik for the 1974 examination, and also for other trips to Rongelap and Utirik during the year.

3. We recommended that the AEC provide extra money to the Trust Territory for any extra rooms or equipment for the Majuro and Ebeye hospitals.

We have found that this is not necessary and that the AEC has provided a new trailer at the Majuro hospital which will help with the examinations.

4. We recommended that the AEC give Dr. Conard more money to help make his annual examinations.

Dr. Conard has replied that he has enough money, however, it looks like because of extra examinations and for other reasons, that the AEC will be spending more money for the surveys.

Dr. Conard and Brookhaven National Laboratory

We recommended that:

1. The BNL team should ask permission to conduct the survey, and not simply come without being invited.

We understand that Dr. Conard has in the past written to the people of Utirik and Rongelap explaining about their examinations and indicating that they will come again.

2. Dr. Conard should ask to have island meetings to explain results from the last examination and to answer questions.

Dr. Conard has advised us this will be done.

3. During such a meeting Dr. Conard should ask if the people want to have a party. We believe that the people might perhaps like to contribute local food, if Dr. Conard brings such things as chicken and pigs so that there will be enough food for everyone.

Dr. Conard said that this will be done.

4. We recommended that Dr. Conard study carefully the recommendations made by the four Doctors, Kumatori, Ezaki, Pochin, and Cole.

Dr. Conard has done this and may conduct a special study recommended by one of the doctors.

5. We recommended that Dr. Conard give each person examined a written statement in Marshallese of their general findings.

This has been done.

Trust Territory Government

1. We recommended that the Trust Territory Government build on municipal land, in Utirik after talking with the people, a dispensary and other dual purpose buildings such as classrooms, which will enable the medical team to house all of its equipment and people, and also in which to make examinations. The cost should be paid by the AEC.

Nothing has been done on this and the Committee will follow up.

2. We recommended that the old tower on Utirik, because it is very old, be taken down by the Trust Territory if the people want this done. The Committee was afraid that in a strong wind, the tower might fall down and hurt someone. Nothing has been done.

If the people want this done, they should tell the district government at Majuro.

3. We recommended that the AEC, and Dr. Conard, and the Trust Territory and the Joint Committee all work together to make an educational program in Marshallese which will help the people understand what had happened to them.

We understand that this has been done and that Brookhaven is paying the cost of printing this program in a book.

4. We recommended that the Trust Territory will provide certain benefits to the people of Rongelap and Utirik if the Congress of Micronesia passes a law for this purposes.

This has been done.

5. We recommended that the ENL and the AEC help give extra training to the health aides on Rongelap and Utirik and that a monthly report be sent in by ship or radio on the health of the people.

Nothing has been done about extra training--but there will be extra visits by Dr. Knudsen, and his replacement. We understand that the monthly reports will be sent in and that this is standard practice.

6. We recommended that the Division of Community Development try to help the people of Utirik and Rongelap with assistance in agriculture, fisheries, and handicraft because we noted, especially on Rongelap, that many of the young people have left the island and the older people have little money.

Nothing has been done and we will follow up on this.

The Congress of Micronesia

1. We recommended that the Congress of Micronesia pass a law which will provide benefits such as free transportation, per diem and health care for exposed and control persons from Utirik and Rongelap.

This has been done.

2. We recommended that the Congress, working with the Department of Health Services and Dr. Conard, make a book for each control and exposed person which could be used as identification when the people go into Majuro or Ebeye for examination.

This has been changed. We have asked Dr. Conard to make identification cards, with the picture of each person on it instead of books.

3. We recommended that our committee write a summary of our report and that it be printed in the Marshallese language.

This has been done and that is what you are reading now.

4. We recommended that this Committee continue to go with Dr. Conard on the annual examinations to see that our recommendations are followed.

Also, we recommended that the Nitijela send along representatives.

The Committee has gone on two surveys and will go on the one this year (1974). We have written to the Nitijela asking that they also send someone, however, this may be difficult because the Nitijela meets at the same time as the survey.

5. The Committee recommended that its life be extended by the Congress until 1975.

This has been done. The Committee will exist until March 31, 1975.

The people of Rongelap and Utirik

1. We recommended that the people of Rongelap and Utirik form Fallout Survivors Councils. This a common practice in Japan. The Committee felt that such groups like these might be better able to express their concerns or work for corrections or changes from the District Government, the Trust Territory, the AEC, and Dr. Conard, by forming such groups.

The people of Rongelap have done this and the Committee is very happy about it. They have already sent letters with questions to Dr. Conard, and he has answered the questions. However, the people of Utirik have not done this yet.

Other Recommendations and Actions Which Have Taken Place Since the Report was written

1. The Committee recommended that the AEC send a representative along

on the 1974 survey, so the people can make their request to the AEC.

We have heard from the AEC and Dr. Conard that this will be done.

2. We have recommended that the AEC supply the money for Public Law 5-52 which provides benefits to the people of Rongelap and Utirik.

We understand that this will be done and that the AEC will provide \$20,000 the first year.

3. The Committee has recommended that the \$16,000 inconvenience money for the people of Utirik which was promised by the AEC in 1970 be given to the people. This money would be given with the understanding that there would be "no strings attached," that if the people received this money it did not mean that they could not receive more money later if it was recommended by the people or by the Committee.

We understand that the AEC is ready to provide \$18,212 for the 157 people of Utirik who were originally exposed. This represents \$116.00 per person. There will be no release of liability for the AEC or the U.S. Government if the people take this money. The only problem to be solved now, is who is to receive the money for a person who has died.

4. The Committee also advised the AEC that it would be a good idea to fully explain to the people of Bikini and Eniwetok about radiation before those people are returned to their islands.

The AEC has said that it will do this.

5. The Committee also recommended that a survey of soil, plants, fish and so on be done during the 1974 survey.

Dr. Conard said that this would be done.

Conclusion

The Committee is very pleased that almost all of its recommendations have been carried out, including those to the AEC, Dr. Conard, the Trust

Territory, the Congress, and the people of Rongelap and Utirik. The Committee believes that in the future there will be less problems and less misunderstanding between the people and Dr. Conard, the AEC, and the Trust Territory. The Committee also wishes to point out something. We have recommended to Dr. Conard, because of the death of Leko Anjain, that the people receive a special examination for their blood six months after the annual survey.

The Committee has made other recommendations which will mean that the people will see a doctor come to their island more often. The people of Rongelap and Utirik must realize that this work is being carried out for their benefit. However, problems which comes from this extra attention are: 1) the people are bothered more often from these examinations and visits, in other words, their normal way of life will become more and more upset, and 2) because of the extra attention, the people may worry more about getting sick. However, the Committee feels that the people should not complain about the extra attention and the disruption because they have asked for more attention and this attention will help them keep healthy. Furthermore they should not worry more about getting sick, but should worry less, because they are receiving more attention. This same problem will also be discussed in the Committee's next report on compensation.

In summary, the Committee is generally pleased that the recommendations--many of them which have come from the people themselves--have been followed through and have been done. We hope that this work of the Committee will help the people of Rongelap and Utirik feel better about their future in the years to come.

In the past report on medical aspects, the Committee deferred conclusions regarding certain information until it had received further material from Dr. Conard. Below are listed the page numbers on which the questionable areas appeared in the past report and the Committee's determination.

p. 105. It was noted that no germ cell studies had been made on the affected Rongelapese. Dr. Conard's reply calls attention to the fact that such studies involve certain steps which might prove personally objectionable to Marshallese custom.

p. 116. Over 100 questions were submitted to Dr. Conard and comprehensive answers were supplied to the Committee.

p. 145. The passage about medical treatment of the Rongelapese has been satisfactorily answered.

p. 147 This part of the report dealt with what appears to be an instance of the people being used as "guinea pigs" in an immunological response to tetanus toxoid. Dr. Conard has responded that this was due to an immunization program which was being carried out for all people of the Marshalls at that time.

p. 148. Here it is indicated that during an operation for removal of a thyroid, a parathyroid was accidentally removed.

Treatment

11/12-p. 97--In the hospital summary of surgery on case no. 21, it is indicated that the parathyroid, along with the thyroid gland, was unintentionally removed, and that the patient is on medication to correct this.

Question: Was the patient informed of this accidental removal? Was this incident a factor in having future patients transported to the mainland in order that experts in thyroid surgery such as Dr. Colcock might operate?

A: During thyroidectomy inadvertent removal of one or more of the parathyroid glands is not an infrequent occurrence even with the best thyroid surgeons. The patient referred to was informed about the removal of the thyroid and parathyroid glands and impressed with the need for strict treatment regimen. The subsequent transfer of Marshallese thyroid patients to the U.S. centers was done to insure more specialized examinations and treatment.