



BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY  
ASSOCIATED UNIVERSITIES, INC., UPTON, L.I., N.Y. 11973

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MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

TELEPHONE: (516) 345- 3577

*Mohr-*

April 30, 1975

Dr. James L. Liverman  
Assistant Administrator for Environment and Safety  
U.S. Energy Research and Development Administration  
Washington, D.C. 20545

Dear Jim:

Last week I called Bill Burr about a disturbing letter I received from Nelson Anjain, Magistrate of Rongelap village. I enclose a copy of this letter which last week was published in the Micronesian Independent, a newspaper in the Marshalls. You can imagine how I felt to get such a letter after 21 years examining these people. However, I realize that this is not a personal attack but an attempt to embarrass the U.S.

Several days ago I talked with the brother of Nelson, Jeton Anjain who is in Washington representing the Marshallese people at a Senate hearing. He said Nelson had admitted to him that the letter had been written by a man from an organization, "Friends of Micronesia" (probably Roger Gale former editor of the publication "Friends of Micronesia", who was with Nelson in Japan). Jeton told him that he should not have signed such a letter without the concurrence of the Rongelap people (at the time the letter was written we were on Rongelap and the people were quite friendly and voiced none of the sentiments expressed in this letter). (Nelson is not himself among the exposed people). Congressman Ataji Balos from the Marshalls is also in Washington and Jeton said he did not approve of the letter and that when they got back to Majuro they would try and straighten things out. The Trust Territory in Saipan (Peter Coleman) and Dept. of Interior (Harry Brown) are aware of the letter and will try and help.

This morning Vic Bond, Gene Cronkite, Bob Aronson, Knud Knudsen and I met to discuss a course of action. We consider the letter written in such a provocative and vitriolic manner that it will be very difficult to answer. At this time we believe we should not answer the letter and wait and see if the matter can be resolved at the local level. Should we get inquiries from people receiving copies of the letter we will, of course, have to answer them.

If you do not approve of this action or have further suggestions please let me know.

Sincerely,

*Bob*

Robert A. Conard, M.D.

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RAC:im

CC:

Encs: Drs. Bond, Cronkite, Aronson, Knudsen, Charles E. Carter

April 9, 1975.  
Rongelap Island,  
Micronesia.

Dr. Robert Conard  
Brookhaven National Laboratory  
Upton, Long Island, New York 11790

Dear Dr. Conard,

I'm sorry I was not at home when you visited my island. Instead, I have spent the past few months travelling to Japan and Fiji learning about treatment of atomic bomb victims and about attempts to end the nuclear threat in the Pacific.

Since leaving Rongelap on the peace ship Fri, I have learned a great deal and am writing to you to clarify some of my feelings regarding your continued use of us as research subjects.

I realize now that your entire career is based on our illness. We are far more valuable to you than you are to us. You have never really cared about us as people -- only as a group of guinea pigs for your government's bomb research effort. For me and for the other people on Rongelap, it is life which matters most. For you it is facts and figures. There is no question about your technical competence, but we often wonder about your humanity. We don't need you and your technological machinery. We want our life and our health. We want to be free.

In all the years you've come to our island, you've never treated us as people. You've never sat down among us and really helped us honestly with our problems. You have told people that the "worst is over", then Leko<sub>j</sub> Anjain died. I don't know yet how many new cases you'll find during your current trip, but I am very worried that we will suffer again and again.

I'll never forget how you told a newspaper reporter that it was our fault that Leko<sub>j</sub> died because we wouldn't let you examine us in early 1972. You seem to forget that it is your country and the people you work for who murdered Leko<sub>j</sub>.

As a result of my trip, I've made some decisions that I want you to know about. The main decision is that we do not want to see you again. We want medical care from doctors who care about us, not about collecting information for the U.S. government's war makers.

We want a doctor to live on our island permanently. We don't need medical care only when it is convenient for you to visit. We want to be able to see a doctor when we want to. America has been trying to Americanize us by flying flags and using cast-off textbooks. It's about time America gave us the kind of medical care it provides its own citizens.

We've never really trusted you. So we're going to invite doctors from hospitals in Hiroshima to examine us in a caring way.

Dr. Robert Conard

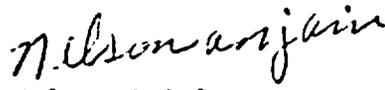
Page 2

April 9, 1975.

We no longer want to be under American control. As a representative of the United States, you've convinced us that Americans are out to dominate others, not to help them. From now on, we will maintain our neutrality and independence from American power.

There will be some changes made. Next time you try to visit be prepared. Ever since 1972 when we first stood up to you, we've been aware of your motives. Now that we know that there are other people in this world who are willing to help us, we no longer want you to come to Rongelap.

Sincerely,



Nelson Anjain,  
Magistrate.

NA:sc

cc: Hon. Gary Hart, U.S. Senate  
Hon. Phillip Burton, U.S. House  
Hon. Kurt Waldheim, Secretary-  
General, United Nations  
Hon. Ataji Balos, Congress of  
Micronesia

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Nelson Anjain, on questioning, said that he personally would permit the AEC continue its yearly examinations, but that he wants to have a permanent, full-time doctor stationed on Rongelap. If this doctor is Japanese, as Nelson indicates the case would be, then the AEC will probably not kick in any money for this service--or at least this was the impression given when the subject was discussed in Kujuro with doctors involved in a non-radiation related study of diabetes among the Utrik-Rongelap people.

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[This letter was sent to Dr Robert Conrad, head of the continuing radiological effect survey on the people of Rongelap and Utrik who were exposed to radiation in an incident in 1954]

**NICKONESIANS  
INDEPENDENT**  
Fri. Apr 25, 1976

The author of this letter, Nelson Anjain, is magistrate of Rongelap and uncle of Leko Anjain.



On Monday, April 21, a member of the AEC team who participated in the recent trip of the group to Rongelap said the Marshallese were friendly and gave no indication that they were upset about anything. "I just can't understand it," said one. Apparently no new abnormalities were detected as yet as a result of the most recent examination. Still, final results are not in yet.

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-Nelson Anjain

# RONGELAP THE BIG HOLE