

Department of Energy

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bcc: A/MUCU RF ✓

Mgr.'s RF

B. W. Church, DAMES

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T. R. Clark, Manager
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TRIP REPORT - HONOLULU AND MAJURO, MARCH 2-9, 1987

I. Purpose

A. To suggest to RMI reputable "independent" organizations to review DOE's radiological assessment of Rongelap.

B. To gain some agreement from the Enewetak community on what review they would find acceptable for our reassessment of Enjebi Island, due to RMI in July 1987.

C. To conceptually explore with RMI the possibility of the DOE medical program integrating to some degree with their outer island health care delivery system, therefore giving DOE a good alternative to a full time vessel.

D. To assess the Scope of the 4 Atoll Health Care Program, now taken over by RMI using Compact funding, and determine how that will bear on the DOE program.

II. Meeting with RMI and MARIMED in Honolulu

Upon arrival in Honolulu on March 2, I attended a meeting at the Marimed office. Marimed is a non-profit foundation, organized in 1984 for the purpose of providing health care and training to the other islands of the Marshalls. They are building a large steel, sail-assisted ship which is scheduled to be operational by mid-1988, contingent on raising approximately \$1 million additional funds for outfitting. Marimed has an excellent rapport with RMI and a contract whereby RMI will fund their operating costs (about \$325K) annually. The vessel will be staffed largely by rotating volunteer medical personnel. I requested the meeting to conceptually explore whether RMI had any interest in accommodating the DOE medical mission using the Marimed vessel Toule Mour, perhaps on a charter basis for three-five weeks per year. This could make a lot of sense by 1989 when there more than likely will not be enough program requirement (at least DOE-funded) to justify a fulltime vessel costing about \$750K annually. The meeting was attended by Tony deBrum, Minister of Health, RMI; David Higgins, Executive Director of Marimed; Dr. Lonnie Higgins, Medical Director of Marimed; Ginny deBrum, Marimed Board of Directors; and Bill Jackson, PASO.

Marshall Islands Planning
Program / Policy Guidance
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The concept was enthusiastically accepted by Tony deBrum. It was agreed that it made economic sense because RMI costs could be partially offset, and costs to the U.S. for vessel support would be drastically reduced. Equipment could be integrated and shared. The DOE special care delivery to the exposed population would be integrated into an overall RMI health care delivery mission, thus reducing the number of "outside" medical and technical people brought in by BNL (also reducing DOE costs). And, finally, the integrated delivery would serve to defuse a lot of the feeling of discriminatory health care for a small group of people. As a follow-on, I will ask Dr. Adams to meet with Marimed to discuss if and how this could work. The projected savings to DOE, should this prove feasible, could range between \$300-600K annually for vessel support and up to \$250K in medical costs.

III. DOE Costs for Medical Referrals

We now budget about \$150K annually to pay for radiation relatable medical referrals to Hawaii. I feel that RMI, through Special Section 177, Compact funding (\$2 million annually), should take care of all medical referrals, including those for the 167 exposed people who might need "radiation relatable" referrals. DOE could still fund special diagnostic referrals. The RMI Health Minister agreed to this. When the details and procedures are worked out, this should reduce DOE costs, starting in FY-1988, by about \$100K annually.

An interesting development which is close to operational is that RMI is instituting a national health insurance system for outside referrals. This plan is with the New Zealand Health System and will cover all RMI citizens. The pro-rata premium for 4-Atoll people will be paid out of 177 health funds.

V. Briefing of U.S. Department of State Representatives

I briefed Arnie Campbell on DOE programs and specifically made him aware of a U.S. interest in having RMI select a competent unbiased group to review our Rongelap data and conclusions. His office will follow the selection process carefully.

VI. Meeting with Chief Secretary and Advisors

I delivered a list of organizations, compiled at my request by NV HPE, which are recognized as highly qualified to review our Rongelap data. RMI asked for help on the selection process. I suggested that any one of those listed could do a credible job but DOE does not want to show any bias or take any part in the selection process.

The group was apprised of my contact with Marimed and Minister deBrum, and our interest in exploring the use of their medical vessel if DOE continues to have responsibility for the exposed population. The Chief Secretary reaffirmed the position of RMI that they wanted DOE to continue; that the Compact health care funds would be used for the general 4 atoll health care program; and that RMI expected a separate appropriation by the U.S. for the DOE-run program consistent with P.L. 99-239.

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I also advised that the current DOE plan for Bikini is to continue our funding only through FY-1988, at which time a decision could be made on how to rehabilitate Bikini Island. While a scaled-down followup is recommended, DOE would look to having it funded through DOI or RMI. My view is that it should be incorporated into the overall resettlement plan.

VII. Kili Visit

I was invited to Kili, the temporary home of some 500 Bikinians, to join them in their observation of the anniversary (41 years) of their removal from Bikini. The program sheet is attached. All in all, it was a day of speeches, music, games and feasting. I also was asked to give some remarks. I acknowledged our Government's appreciation of their contribution to world nuclear peace, and stressed the positive indicators for the future return to Bikini. The other invited U.S. officials were Mr. Arnie Campbell, DOS LNO, and Mr. Earl Gilmore, H&N.

Meeting with RMI on 4-Atoll Health Program

I met with Skip Cole, Hospital Administrator for Sisters of Mercy International, which administers the Marshall Islands health care system.

The RMI is expected to sign a contract about March 20 with Sisters to operate the 4-Atoll Program. This will involve 1.7 FTEs MDs who will visit each affected atoll four times annually. A health education team will visit annually and there will be two annual dental visits. An optometrist will visit annually for examinations and distribution of eye glasses.

Sisters is very willing to flag all facility visits, referrals, etc., so as to advise DOE/BNL with respect to the exposed population. Ebye medical facilities will soon include three houses for MDs. The 4 Atoll physicians should be on board by May 1, 1987.

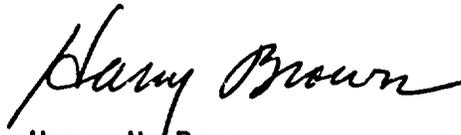
Specifically, I will ask PASO to take the lead with BNL to sit down with Mr. Cole and other RMI health officials to work out an SOP which meets our information needs on the exposed group. This could include items such as notification of hospital admissions, intent to refer, significant medical problems, deaths, etc.

Since RMI has agreed to fund all tertiary referrals, including "radiation relatable," and since their health insurance referral will give equal coverage to all citizens, I will be attempting to have this memorialized in written form as soon as practical.

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Meeting with the Enewetak Leadership

The Enewetak Council just opened a small office in Majuro. I was able to meet with their senator, mayor, Iroij, and almost the entire council on March 5. They were advised again of the Enjebi reassessment and I asked them if they wanted to seek an independent review of our assessment. If so, by whom. My suggestion was that they consider Messrs. Bender and Brill who did this on their behalf in 1979-1980. Their lawyer, Mr. David Anderson, was on the phone from Washington and he seemed to embrace the idea. The upshot is that the Enewetak people will discuss this among themselves and Anderson, and we will all be back in touch in the next couple of weeks. I did suggest that any independent review should be paid for by them to ensure integrity, but early involvement would be helpful.



Harry U. Brown
Assistant to the Manager
for Off-Continent Operations

Enclosure:
Program Sheet

cc:
J. E. Rudolph, Prog. Support Div., MA,
HQ, (DP-224) GTN
T. D. Chico, MA, HQ (DP-224) GTN
J. H. Dryden, Dir., PASO, Honolulu, HI

BIKINI DAY 1987

MARCH 5

KILI ISLAND

"41 LONG LONG YEARS OF EXILE"

PROGRAM OF SPEAKERS

**THE FIRST HONOR GUARD OF THE BIKINI/KILI/EJIT
LOCAL GOVERNMENT WILL PERFORM THE FLAG RAISING
CEREMONIES FOR THE SINGING OF THE MARSHALL
ISLANDS NATIONAL ANTHEM.**

**INVOCATION PRAYER:
REV. HARRY RAKIN**

**INTRODUCTION AND HISTORICAL SPEECH:
MR. JACK NIEDENTHAL**

**WELCOMING SPEECH ON BEHALF OF THE BIKINIANS:
THE HONORABLE MINISTER HENCHI BALOS**

**A SPEECH FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS:
THE HONORABLE PRESIDENT AMATA KABUA**

A SPEECH FROM SPECIAL GUEST: MR. HARRY BROWN

A SPEECH FROM SPECIAL GUEST: MR. EARL GILMORE

**CLOSING SPEECH:
THE HONORABLE MAYOR TOMAKI JUDA**