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BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY  
ASSOCIATED UNIVERSITIES, INC.

Upton, Long Island, New York 11973

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FTS 666

October 27, 1987

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AMOE \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Joseph Dryden  
Director, Pacific Area Support Office  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Box 29939  
Honolulu, Hawaii

Dear Mr. Dryden,

The September followup medical trip to visit the exposed Marshallese of Rongelap and Utirik has been concluded successfully. I wish to thank you and your team for the fine support you continue to provide for our missions.

We were fortunate indeed to have Dr. Mike Bliss with us this mission, for he was able to perform many sigmoidoscopies which could not be done during the Spring trip. This procedure is recommended as a routine exam for cancer surveillance for those fifty years and older, and making it accessible to the population we serve is an important and expected part of each mission.

The number of people examined and the type of examination performed are as follows:

Location	Physical Examination	Followup Examination	X-rays	Sigmoid	Mammo
Ebeye	2	25	2	10	
Majuro	3	23	3	15	
Utirik	1	21	3	7	3
Mejatto	2	34	7	11	1
Total	8	103	15	43	4

In addition, about 75 persons were seen for sick call at Utirik

BNL Medical \$7  
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and Mejatto, and many children were updated on their immunizations. The effectiveness of this part of the trip was due to the help of personnel from the Marshallese Health Services who accompanied us. Dr. Robb Williams, a pediatrician at the Majuro hospital, worked very effectively, and I think that this sort of collaboration between the Health Services (in essence, the 177 Health Plan) and BNL should be utilized as much as possible.

In the laboratory, there were performed 147 blood counts of various types, 41 urine tests, and 151 blood chemistries. A new blood chemistry analyzer was loaned to us for the mission. The analyzer does quite a variety of tests on very small quantities of serum. However, it can perform only one test in about five minutes. Whereas this would be a drawback for a larger medical unit, it is not a problem with our program, for the volume of tests is relatively small. Our experience with the new machine was so satisfactory that we have decided to purchase it. Anticipated benefits from its use include 1) greater simplicity, ease, and speed of operation, 2) the ability to do a greater variety of tests in the field, and 3) replacement of our current procedure which requires separate kits for each type of determination. From the viewpoint of PASO, I anticipate that it will be unnecessary to send blood tests to Honolulu, for they will be able to be done in the field, or, in the case of serologic procedures, brought back to Brookhaven. Furthermore, since the test reagents are individually packaged and available from the machine's manufacturer, it should be now be possible to discontinue ordering laboratory supplies from Honolulu. Obviously there are some items, such as certain refrigerated ones or inflammable solutions, etc., which must continue to be obtained through PASO, but this will be kept to a minimum.

As for the conduct of the trip, there were no significant problems that I know of. Reyold DeBrum effectively carried out the responsibilities of DOE liaison for the last half of the mission. The town meetings were pleasant, and we were pleased to hear one Marshallese man on Utirik ask if it was possible for the people of Utirik to take their money from the 177 Health Plan and give it to DOE instead, that we may provide the 177 services.

The trailers were perfectly set up when we arrived. John Brown is to thank for this, and I must say that he is doing a terrific job for us. He is an outstanding worker and one who can very capably shoulder responsibility and make decisions on his own.

The crew of Liktanur again performed in exemplary fashion, doing far more than is requested of them. Fortunately the Mejatto waters were calm, and this greatly assisted our efforts there.

Two Honolulu referrals were made for the exposed population. It appears likely that both medical problems could have been managed by us had we had an ultrasound machine available. Since the cost of bringing an ultrasound technician along with us would have been less than the cost of the referrals, I believe that we should consider having an operational ultrasound machine on each mission.

Thank you again for your assistance.

Sincerely,



William H. Adams, M.D.  
Director, Marshall Islands  
Medical Program

cc: Mr. Harry Brown ✓  
Dr. Arjun Chanana