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BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY

ASSOCIATED UNIVERSITIES, INC.

Upton, Long Island, New York 11973

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Medical Department

April 29, 1988

Mr. Joseph Dryden
Director, Pacific Area Support Office
Department of Energy
P.O. Box 29939
Honolulu, Hawaii 96820

Dear Mr. Dryden,

For the first time since I became Director of the Marshall Islands Medical Program a D.O.E. liaison officer was not present on our spring mission. I am please to report that despite this novelty, occasioned by what I thought might be a serious underlying medical problem with Mr. Bill Jackson, the mission went very smoothly. I credit two factors for this. One is the competent management of D.O.E. interests by Mr. Reynold deBrum. The other is the careful preparation for the trip arranged by Mr. Jackson. Even my interview with Mr. Giff Johnson of the Marshall Islands Journal resulted in probably the most objective description of our program's activities which I have read. I cannot remember using the phrase "petering out" in relation to thyroid nodules, but who am I to argue with the press.

We had another outstanding group of physicians accompany us, all competent and all with adaptable personalities which obviated any source of friction or inconvenience. The nurses, loaned to us by the Marshallese Health Services, were not as effective as some others in the past, notably Mrs. Totha Arelong, but this is a matter over which we have little control.

I think the presence of a 177 Health Plan physician (Dr. Walsh) was a plus for the trip, and we should continue this joint effort routinely. The benefits are derived primarily by the 177 Health Plan in my opinion, for that program gains credibility in the eyes of the Marshallese because of its association with our program. But from our point of view it is convenient to notify the 177 Health Plan of referrals at the time we identify them, for it allows our physicians to be more effective advocates of those patients.

Medical 88
HARRY BROWN'S Files, NV

The persons receiving complete examinations, arranged by exposure group, are tabulated below:

Island	Rongelap exposed	Utirik exposed	Comparison group	Other	Total
Ebeye	22	12	36	1	71
Majuro	12	39	15	7	73
Utirik	-	26	-	88	114
Mejatto	7	-	19	30	56
Total	41	77	70	126	314

In addition, we examined 17 referrals from the Marshalle Health Services and we saw 212 persons, almost all being children, during sick-call on Mejatto and Utirik. Thus the total number of patients comes to 543. A number of Rongelap exposed and comparison group persons were not seen on Mejatto because they had departed for Honolulu the day prior to our arrival. We will have to locate them during our September mission. Among the exposed persons we examined, four required referral to Honolulu for further evaluation. One possible thyroid nodule was detected in an exposed Rongelap woman, and I am awaiting word from Dr. Dobyms regarding the necessity for surgery in this case.

In the laboratory our new chemistry analyzer proved to be exactly what we need for our field work. We handled more chemistry specimens than usual, but as a consequence we will send very few to outside laboratories. Both clinical care and economy were served well by this addition. A summary of laboratory tests is as follows:

Hematology		
Blood counts	367	
Platelet counts	364	
WBC differentials	332	
Sedimentation rates	5	
Total		1088
Chemistries		165
Serologies (RPR)	200	
Total		365
Urinalysis		
Dipstick tests	307	
Microscopic exams	126	
Pregnancy tests	5	
Total		438

Stool examinations		22
Bacteriology		
Cultures	10	
Sensitivities	6	
Total		16
Grand total		1929

This number does not include approximately 250 control tests, required for quality assurance.

Other procedures included 14 electrocardiograms, 8 sigmoidoscopies, and 172 x-ray procedures (inclusive of mammographies). Since sigmoidoscopies were not available at Ebeye and Majuro, this procedure will be offered in September. In addition, the rough water at Mejatto prevented us from doing routine x-rays. Therefore they will also need to be brought up to date in September. Finally, 35 ultrasound examinations were performed by Dr. Jagannath.

As part of our effort to improve our clinical service we have instituted a more formal system for handling drug prescriptions. This was initiated under the watchful eye of our pharmacist, Dr. J. Cizinsky, while we were on Ebeye and, for one day, on Majuro. Although there were some occasions when, through oversight, a prescription was not written, this is the first opportunity we have had to quantitate our dispensing of drugs. For the record, we prescribed the following (numerator = persons receiving at least one drug; denominator = total prescriptions for those persons):

	Mejatto	Utirik	Ebeye	Majuro
Rongelap exp.	9/26	-	18/39	12/29
Utirik exp.	-	17/31	7/12	29/47
Rongelap unexp.	7/11	-	10/28	19/47
Utirik unexp.	-	51/88	-	2/2

Total: 360 prescriptions for 181 persons.
This includes only adults receiving complete examinations.

The availability of an accurate drug record in each patient's chart and the ability to identify each person's drug by manufacturer lot number should a drug recall be necessary are important improvements in quality assurance. The information will also permit a more accurate approximation of drug needs when

ordering for future visits.

The captain and crew of the Liktanur are again to be praised for their excellent performance and assistance during our mission by repairing our uninterruptible power supply, providing oxygen for a patient, transporting patients between ship and shore, and safely seeing the Liktanur through another voyage. It is hard to imagine a better, more adaptable and courteous crew on any ship. We are fortunate indeed to have their good services.

I wish to compliment Mr. John Brown for his excellent job in preparing for our team's visit and for promptly addressing those minor problems that inevitably arise. The improvements in the examination trailers were just what was needed. In particular, the availability of the new cabinets for stocking drugs was greatly appreciated.

As for recommendations, there are almost none. We need new batteries for the laboratory power supply on the Liktanur, and some sort of device which will automatically close the examination trailer doors would be appreciated. The designation of several bicycles for our consultants at the time of their visit would be greatly appreciated. It is our ability to provide both a unique and pleasant experience during the medical missions that allows me to recruit consultants rather than to shanghai them. Our mission is carried out more effectively because of this.

The only complaint I have is about a problem over which you have no control. This is the Kwajalein decision not to permit our Marshallese colleagues access to the Macy's and Ten-Ten shops. Because all individuals on our medical team are there for the same reason, that decision has the appearance of discrimination, which I am sure is not its intent. We would appreciate any effort which PASO can put forth which would permit an exception to the TDY rule for the Marshallese members of our team.

And so, I thank you again for the excellent support which PASO continues to provide our medical teams. I will be in touch with you soon regarding preparations for our September mission.

Sincerely yours,

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

cc: Dr. A. D. Chanana
Mr. H. U. Brown



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460



MEMORANDUM

To: The Secretary
Under Secretary

From: Deputy Assistant Secretary
Territorial and International Affairs

Subject: TIA Highlights for April 28, 1988

ACTION: A-NEIPA

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Our new Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Janet J. McCoy, will assume office on Monday, May 2, 1988.

The President of Palau has notified OTIA that the government will appeal a decision of Associate Supreme Court Justice Robert A. Hefner which declared an August 4, 1987 referendum on the Compact of Free Association "null and void".

Discussions continued this week between OTIA, the Solicitor and officials at the Departments of State and Justice on resolving Northern Mariana Islands citizenship issues.

The Chairman of the General Government Operations Committee of the Guam Legislature has requested the Solicitor provide a clarification as to whether or not "all transactions promulgated by or signed into law by the Governor since 1985" are legal since a requirement in the Organic Act of Guam mandates the location of "the Capital and seat of government" in the City of Agana. In 1985, the Government offices were moved to Adelup.

Deputy Assistant Secretary Mark Hayward met this week with Chief Secretary Oscar de Brum of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Lt. Governor Pedro A. Tenorio of the Northern Mariana Islands, Governor A.P. Lutali of American Samoa, and Governor Alexander A. Farrelly of the Virgin Islands.

A meeting was held Wednesday with the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative and representatives of the insular governments on the impact of the U.S. - Canada Free Trade Agreement.

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior held its annual hearings Tuesday on the Administration budget request for OTIA.

Joseph McDermott has joined the OTIA staff as Desk Officer for the Northern Mariana Islands. McDermott formally served as Legislative Assistant to Delegate Fofu Sunia of American Samoa.

Prepared by: Larry L. Morgan - 343/3003