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HEADQUARTERS
JOINT TASK FORCE SEVEN
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

14 March 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD:

SUBJECT: Meeting at Kwajalein on 14 March 1954

1. Present:

Major General P. W. Clarkson
Rear Admiral Clarke
Dr. LeRoy
Dr. Dunham
Colonel Maupin
Dr. Dunning
Commander Cronkite

2. General Clarkson explained that with respect to the return of evacuated natives to their home atolls, there were three aspects to be considered:

(1) How long does Dr. LeRoy need the natives for medical observation. Further, how soon would Dr. LeRoy think they could return to their home atolls provided there was no significant radiation left on the atolls and no further contamination would be experienced.

(2) The condition of the atolls as to contamination, assuming there would be no further contamination from succeeding shots.

(3) In view of the precautionary measures to be taken in the future, no further contamination is expected. However, if through some unforeseen happening there should be contamination in this area, at least there would be no evacuation worries about these atolls if the natives are not returned to their home atolls until completion of CASTLE.

3. General Clarkson stated that based on advice of his medical and radiological safety personnel, the Utirik natives could be returned to Utirik at any time that Dr. LeRoy was through with them if we were in the situation where there were to be no further shots. In view of the contamination levels at Rongelap and the exposure already experienced by the natives from that atoll, it would be unwise to return them for at least 60 days after evacuation even though there were to be no further shots. General Clarkson stated that he felt that based on the advice available to him it would be unwise to return any of the natives until the operation was completed and this was his decision.

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SUBJECT: Meeting at Kwajalein on 14 March 1954

4. Dr. LeRoy presented the medical aspects in regard to the natives now under his observation at Kwajalein. These are covered in attached memo prepared by Colonel Maupin, JTF Staff Medical Officer.

5. General Clarkson explained again that JTF funds would be used to defray additional expenses incurred by the Trust Territories and other than normal service support expenses incurred by Naval Station Kwajalein. General Clarkson stated that any animals (pigs, chickens and dogs) that were lost to the natives would be replaced. He said that he had asked the High Commissioner of the Trust Territories to effect this replacement and that the Task Force would stand the expense.

6. Admiral Clarke stated that he had no problems in taking care of the natives that had not been solved. He further stated that he could easily handle the Air Force personnel from Rongerik should they be sent to Kwajalein for medical observation.

7. Following the meeting with Admiral Clarke and Dr. LeRoy, General Clarkson interviewed a Trust Territory Representative at Kwajalein, Mr. Tobin. General Clarkson informed Mr. Tobin that as soon as Dr. LeRoy's group had no further need for the natives for medical observation, it was Admiral Clarke's desire to move them to EBEYE. Mr. Tobin said that EBEYE was crowded and that water supply was not adequate. Admiral Clarke assured Mr. Tobin that water would be provided and that he felt it was desirable to remove the natives from Kwajalein Island where they necessarily had to be restricted to a small compound. He felt that they would be much happier amongst their own people on EBEYE. Tents have been erected at EBEYE and it is felt that the Trust Territories Representative feels that their present housing on Kwajalein is better than it would be on EBEYE. General Clarkson explained that inspite of this, it was felt that it was essential to move them to EBEYE as soon as they need no further close medical observation. Mr. Tobin was informed by General Clarkson that this must be done.

1 Incl:
Col Maupin's Memo


P. W. CLARKSON
Major General, USA
Commander

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MEETING AT KWAJALEIN 14 March 1954

Present: Maj Gen Clarkson, Dr. Graves, RADM Clarke, Dr. Leroy, Dr. Dunham, Col Maupin, Dr. Dunning, Comdr Cronkite.

Natives from Utirik have shown no abnormalities and none are expected. They need be retained no longer as far as Program 4 is concerned.

Rongelap natives correspond very well from a blood picture standpoint to Japanese groups D&E who were about 1.5 miles from ground zero. In this group of Japanese 2 to 3 percent lost some hair, 10% had sore mouth, and 5% had hemorrhages under the skin. In the natives very little expected except in the aged. Potentially, some may develop symptoms within the next two weeks. There are not beta burns as yet. Such burns could appear in the 3rd week following exposure. There may be some abortions in women in the first three months of pregnancy. In the similar Japanese groups about 25% of pregnant women miscarried. It is not possible to get information on pregnancy as the natives will not discuss it. They plan 3 to 6 weeks in observing the Rongelap natives depending upon findings.

The medical team is still very desirous of examining the Americans from Rongelap. They would require one to two weeks particularly the 3 Americans with 90R. They were told that the 3 high dose individuals would be down soon and that we are awaiting word from the AWS with respect to the other 25. Basic data from the Americans on metabolism is essential because of inability to obtain accurate native data and the Americans would give an excellent control group because of constant diet, no language difficulty, and negative findings being important from a standpoint of labelling dosage in humans.

It was decided that Dr. LeRoy and Dr. Dunning proceed to Honolulu to talk with Dr. Bugher in Washington via telephone to fill him in on gaps in data prior to his appearance before the commission.

A meeting was held later in the office of COMNAVSTA KWAJALEIN with Maj Gen Clarkson, Dr. Graves, RADM Clarke, Col Maupin, Dr. Dunning, Capt. Sooy and Mr. Tobin anthropologist for the Trust Territory. He was told that the natives from Utirik could not be returned to Utirik until the end of the series but could be removed to any other place such as Ebeye or Majuro at any time. He stated that a water shortage existed at Ebeye but was assured by Adm Clarke that adequate water would be provided should they move to Ebeye. Mr. Tobin was told that it may be several months before the Rongelap natives could be returned.

The date of return after the end of the series will depend upon the radioactivity in the atoll.

Information has been received that Dr. Bugher approves the collection of the urine and feces by the Los Alamos group. RAdm Clarke stated that he could provide housing for this group as well as for the 28 Americans should they be returned.

Clinton L. Morgan

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HEADQUARTERS
JOINT TASK FORCE SEVEN
APO 187 (HOW) c/o PM
San Francisco, Calif.

10 April 1954

SUBJECT: Medical Conference at Kwajalein

TO: Commander
Joint Task Force Seven
APO 187 (HOW), c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California

1. Conferences were held at Kwajalein on 5 and 6 April 1954 at which Col Clinton S. Maupin, MC, USA, Staff Surgeon, JTF 7; Col Karl H. Houghton, MC, USAF, Surgeon, TG 7.4; CDR Eugene F. Cronkite, MC, USN, Project 4.1; CDR William J. Hall, MC, USN, Surgeon, NavStakwaj; Lt Col Louis E. Browning, MC, USA, Surgeon, AFSMF; Lt Col G. M. McDonnell, MC, USA, Walter Reed Army Hospital and other members of Project 4.1 participated.

2. The condition, progress, treatment, management, and disposition of all patients having symptoms and physical findings due to radiation were discussed in detail.

a. Rongelap natives.

The condition of these patients is good at this time. The upper respiratory epidemic has been mild and has shown no synergistic action with the radiation symptoms toward an overall deleterious effect. The epidemic has responded to simple outpatient type of coryza treatment. There is a slight increase in white blood cell and platelet counts which indicates that maximum effect of radiation damage has been seen and that regeneration is taking place. Most of the skin lesions are subsiding and few new cases are being seen. The most recent skin manifestations have been on the feet and in general have been more severe than the other types. Involvement is on the dorsum of the feet (none having been observed on the soles) consisting of blister formation and swelling. Following rupture of the blisters desquamation takes place with some depigmentation. Most of these lesions heal promptly with conservative therapy. In general all areas of skin involvement result in depigmentation and a parchment-like appearance of the skin. It was felt that these patients were progressing

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satisfactorily and no changes in treatment or management were recommended. Considering the progress of these patients so far, it is the opinion of the group that observation for treatment of radiation effects and investigation from a scientific standpoint can be discontinued in about three to four weeks barring unforeseen complications. In view of the fact that this group received a dose of radiation which was marginal from a standpoint of severe morbidity, justification cannot be made for exposure to significant additional radiation. Therefore, based on the concept that the recovery period should correspond in time to the permissible dose for accumulation, it is recommended that these patients not be exposed to radiation except for essential diagnostic or therapeutic radiation for a period of eight years. Following completion of this study it is felt that follow-up examinations of the patients should be made at approximately six month intervals to observe the course of the skin lesions, epilation, and general physical condition. It is recommended that medical responsibility for the natives subsequent to the departure of the Task Force be determined so that medical records may be supplied them and recommendation for follow-up may be made.

b. Utirik Natives.

These patients received a light dose of radiation on the order of 10 roentgens. They developed no systemic symptoms nor evidence of burns. The investigation of this group was completed on 29 March and they were released to the custody of ComNavStaKwaj who moved them to Ebeye for convenience of administration on 30 March 1954. Survey of the island for radioactivity at the completion of the test will govern the time of return. If the levels in water, food and external gamma radiation are acceptable, no contraindication for their return will exist. If on return to Utirik there still exists contamination of an acceptable degree in the low milliroentgen per hour range, it is recommended that these natives be observed during the time that periodic examinations are made of the Rongelap natives.

c. Americans from Rongerik and the 3 Navy M-boat operators.

This group of patients received a radiation dose of from forty to one hundred roentgens. Their condition is excellent at this time. At no time have there been any subjective symptoms. The findings physically have consisted of reduction in the number of white blood cells and platelets of a mild to moderate degree and recently two cases have developed skin manifestations indicative of radiation burns of a superficial nature. No definitive treatment has been indicated so far nor is any recommended. It is felt that observation and investigation will be completed on 15 April 1954 by Project 4.1 barring unforeseen

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complications. In view of the dose received, further exposure to radiation cannot be justified. Based on the concept that the recovery period should correspond in time with the permissible dose for accumulation; it is recommended that these patients not be exposed to radiation except for essential diagnostic or therapeutic radiation for a period of six years. It is further recommended that they be returned to the U.S. and sent to a medical center for a complete and detailed medical workup prior to return to duty. For consistency and uniformity, it is felt that all patients regardless of service should go to the same medical facility and that the Walter Reed Army Medical Center is the agency best suited to perform the examinations. Detailed clinical records will be available to be forwarded to the medical center.

d. Americans from the Bairoko and Philip.

Approximately 38 cases of radiation burns have developed among the personnel of these two ships. Film badges indicate that whole body radiation received was less than 10R. No subjective systemic symptoms have been noted. All patients are in good condition and the burns are healing causing no discomfort and requiring no treatment. These cases are being documented by history, photography, and biopsy. It is not indicated for them to undergo extensive investigation by Project 4.1. No other follow-up is recommended. Notation will be made in their medical records of the amount of radiation received, and the write-ups of their case histories will also be incorporated therein. It is recommended that CTG 7.3 make the clinical records and documentation available to Project 4.1 to be included in the overall report of radiation injuries to Task Force Personnel.

Clinton S. Maupin
CLINTON S. MAUPIN
Colonel, (MC) USA
Staff Surgeon

John...

TOP RELEASE:
1700, 29 April 1954
Hawaiian Time and Date

PRESS RELEASE

Major General P. W. Clarkson, Commander of Joint Task Force SEVEN which has been conducting tests at the Eniwetok Proving Ground announced today that 31 enlisted men of the Army, Navy and Air Force who were exposed to moderate amounts of radiation during the H-bomb experiments at Eniwetok on March 1 have been returned to Tripler General Hospital, Honolulu, T. H., for medical processing prior to reassignment. Despite the fact there is nothing apparently wrong with the men, they are being given complete medical examinations prior to return to full military duty.

Although none of the group has experienced any symptoms of radiation illness, they have been under close observation ever since their exposure last month.

Two 280 native residents of the islands near by the Pacific Proving Ground area are remaining on Ewajalein for further observation until they can be returned to their homes after the tests. No permanent harm to any of them is expected as a result of their exposure.

The group includes three Navy men. However, none of these men were members of the crew of the tanker PATAPOO which recently arrived at Pearl Harbor after receiving a very slight amount of fallout after one of the tests.

The servicemen who arrived at Tripler Hospital today and their home addresses are as follows:

ARMY PERSONNEL

1PC Gerald R. La Magna, Brooklyn, N.Y. ✓

CPL Donald J. Sieber, Pittsburg, Pa. ✓

PTC William E. Thornton, Long Beach, N.J. ✓

NAVY PERSONNEL

EM2 Guy H. Hall, ✓

SN William M. Bush ✓

FN Ramon N. Peach ✓

AIR FORCE PERSONNEL

S/Sgt Billie F. Andrews, Buffalo, Mo. ✓

A/1C John J. L. Ashby, Galesburg, Ill. ✓

A/1C Lawrence L. Azbill, Compton, Calif. ✓

A/1C Donald L. Baker, Concord, N.H. ✓

A/1C Ramon J. Bertolino, Nokomis, Ill. ✓

A/2C Dale A. Black, Elyria, Ohio ✓

A/1C Lawrence Bushkin, Chicago, Ill. ✓

A/1C Oris Cagle, Newport, Tenn. ✓

S/Sgt Albert R. Campbell, Midwest City, Okla. ✓

A/3C Edward N. Cooper, Des Moines, Iowa ✓

A/1C Geno O. Curbow, Brownwood, Texas ✓

A/1C Raymond Harmer, Jr., Williamstown, N.J. ✓

WOJG John A. Kapral, Westfield, Mass. ✓

A/1C William J. Mooney, Philadelphia, Pa. ✓

A/1C Wallace R. Neil, Kansas City, Mo. ✓

A/2C Lamont R. Noley, Wilburton, Okla. ✓

S/Sgt Richard C. Pettengill, Lawrence, Mass. ✓

M/Sgt Ronald E. Fletsch, Warren, Minn. ✓

A/1C Robert L. Roper, Pickens, S.C. || ✓

A/2C James E. Schwomeyer, Indianapolis, Ind. ✓

T/Sgt Samuel H. Seville, New York, N.Y. ✓

AIR FORCE PERSONNEL (Cont'd)

A/IC Wendell D. Smith, Berkley, Mich.

S/Sgt Charles Townsend, Dallas, Texas

A/3C Joseph E. R. Vignault, Somersworth, N.H.

S/Sgt Lyle L. Winchester, Saginaw, Mich.

319.1

26 May 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief of Staff
AC of S, J-4

SUBJECT: Staff Visit to Majuro on 25 May.

1. On 24 May several members of the staff visited Rongelap Atoll to inspect the condition of buildings, cisterns, and equipment abandoned by the Rongelap natives when they were evacuated during CASTLE. A number of photographs were made.

2. As a followup to the visit to Rongelap, a group visited Majuro on 25 May to inspect the condition of the camp now occupied by the Rongelap natives, and to discuss plans for the return of the natives to Rongelap on the completion of REDWING. The group was comprised as follows: From CJTF SEVEN: Captain Coleman, Colonel Thompson, Lt Colonel Raymond, AGC Parham, J-3 Division; Colonel Fleming, Lt Colonel Gray, J-4 Division; LTJG Roller, J-1 Division; Major Harwell, J-2 Division. The following persons were from the agencies indicated: Lt Colonel Schmittke, Mr. Tom Hardison, TG 7.5; Lt Colonel Bowen, Transportation Officer, TG 7.2; CDR Farrand, TG 7.3 Rep; Mr. Frank Kirk, TG 7.5 (H&N); and N/SGT Painter, S.F., Photographer, TG 7.4.

3. The group arrived at Majuro about 1100 and were met by Mr. Neas, Majuro District Administrator for the Trust Territories. Part of the group proceeded by boat to EJIT Island where the Rongelap natives now live. Mr. Neas asked Captain Coleman to make a statement to the Rongelap native magistrate, giving briefly the purpose of the visit. The statement was made through an interpreter in substance as follows:

a. The group desired to see the condition of the houses and surroundings where the Rongelap people are now living.

b. Plans were being made to return them to their home, but the time of return is not known.

c. Mr. Neas would ask them in the near future to give him an indication of how many of them desired to return to Rongelap so that adequate preparation could be made to provide accommodations equivalent to those they have now.

4. N/SGT Painter took photographs of the houses now occupied by the Rongelap natives. These photographs will be available for any future planning, especially in regard to the disposition of these houses.

5. The group returned from EJIT to DARHIT Island. Captain Coleman, Colonel Fleming, Lt Colonel Schmittke, Lt Colonel Gray, Lt Colonel Raymond, LTJG Roller, Mr. Kirk, Mr. Tom Hardison, and Mr. Neas were joined by Mr.

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief of Staff
AC of S, J-4
SUBJECT: Staff Visit to Majuro on 25 May.

Byron Benders, Assistant District Administrator. This group discussed the general situation and plans for the return of the natives. Captain Coleman stated to Mr. Neas, as preliminary background to the discussion, that the AEC planned a survey upon the completion of REDWING to re-confirm the Radsafe condition of Rongelap Atoll before the natives were returned.

6. The following major points were concluded as being essential steps in plans and preparations for the return of the natives to Rongelap:

a. A census is needed to determine the number of natives who desire to return. The population should be indicated by family units which will require housing rather than a total figure, since the estimate of requirements will depend upon the number and size of families, etc. It was agreed that Mr. Neas would obtain this information as soon as practicable and advise this Headquarters. This information will be needed for planning purposes by CJTF SEVEN, AEC and Holmes and Narver.

b. The conclusion from the inspection of two houses on EJIT Island was that they are in excellent condition considering they were constructed over two years ago. These houses are built of wooden frame covered by plywood siding and tin roofing. It would not be practical to dismantle these houses and reconstruct them. In view of the labor cost of dismantling and probable damage to the material, it would be more practicable to buy new material and assist in reconstructing new units on Rongelap. In addition, the buildings at Majuro will be of great value to the Trust Territory Administrators.

c. A preliminary construction survey should be made at Rongelap by a group early after the completion of REDWING. This group should include representatives from H&N, AEC, the District Administrator and the Rongelap natives. The purpose of this survey is to examine the area for the relocation of buildings. It is understood that there have been some changes in ownership of land among the Rongelap natives since their departure. This trip would provide much valuable information for detailed planning later on.

d. The AEC is planning to conduct a radiological survey of the Rongelap area at the completion of REDWING. This will insure that the area is still safe for the return of the natives. It was estimated by the AEC that the results of this survey would require two months to be confirmed.

when e. Upon the completion of the preliminary construction survey, and the requirements based upon the population census have been determined, H&N must prepare and furnish to the AEC and CJTF SEVEN a cost estimate for the new construction on Rongelap.

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief of Staff
AC of S, J-4
SUBJECT: Staff Visit to Majuro on 25 May.

f. A ship will have to be provided for this operation. It appears that an LST would be very suitable, and adequate, for transporting the construction material to Rongelap, and for carrying the natives from Majuro to Rongelap. Very probably separate trips will be required.

g. H&N should prefabricate components as much as practicable at Parry prior to shipping, with a view toward using native labor to assist in the final erection of the buildings at Rongelap.

h. The following additional factors should be given consideration in future planning:

(1) Native labor should be used as much as practicable. Mr. Neas estimated 20 to 30 effective laborers could be obtained from the Rongelap group.

(2) An initial supply of food must be provided to sustain the colony until it has been re-established on a self-sustaining basis.

(3) During the preliminary construction survey, special attention should be given to the condition of the boats which were abandoned by the Rongelap people when they were hastily evacuated during CASTLE. If these boats cannot be repaired, consideration must be given to assisting in their replacement. It is apparent that these people must have boats.

(4) If the people are relocated during the dry season, sufficient water must be provided to fill the cisterns which will have to be part of the rehabilitating program.

(5) During the Odyssey of the Rongelap people, only one person has died so far. This man was buried on EJIT. Mr. Neas believes that they will desire to bring back the body with them for reburial at Rongelap.

7. In accordance with oral instructions from the Chief of Staff, J-4 will now have cognizance of matters pertaining to the movement of the Rongelap natives back to their native island. J-3 will make available to J-4 any information needed for this planning now held by J-3.


W. M. COLEMAN
Captain, U. S. Navy
Deputy AC of S, J-3