



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

JUN 22 1978

Dr. William W. Burr
Deputy Director
Division of Biomedical and
Environmental Research
Department of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20545

Dear Dr. Burr:

You will recall that I wrote to you on April 6, 1978, on the request Senator Amata Kabua of the Marshall Islands had made with respect to the case of Mrs. Ermita Boaj who was one of the 1954 fallout victims. You replied on April 21, 1978, that the matter would have to be discussed with Dr. Conard. At that time, Dr. Conard was in the Marshalls but you stated that you would send your comments as soon as possible following his return in early May.

Dr. Conard, by phone, has discussed this case briefly with Mr. John E. deYoung of my staff and has indicated that Senator Kabua's statements regarding the inadvertent removal of Mrs. Boaj's parathyroid glands when her thyroid gland was removed are correct. The request that Mrs. Boaj's case be considered for additional compensation is warranted in my estimation. We will need an official statement from Dr. Conard or from your office on this case to consider it. Since the question of compensation for the fallout is a very emotional one, I am anxious to give Senator Kabua and Mrs. Boaj a definite answer as soon as possible. I would appreciate it if a reply could be expedited.

Sincerely yours,

Ruth G. Van Cleve

Mrs. Ruth G. Van Cleve
Director
Office of Territorial Affairs

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