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

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William J. Stanley, Director
Pacific Area Support Office, USDOE

DR. H. PRATT'S TRIP REPORT - BNL
MEDICAL SURVEY, SEPT - OCTOBER 1979

The above referenced report makes serious accusations as to my competence, truthfulness and my " . . . direct, unsolicited interference with Brookhaven National Laboratory medical programs . . .". I am compelled to respond on that basis alone taking due note that these accusations have been given wide distribution within the DOE and DOE Contractor community. This reply is unnecessary for you, I know, but this personal attack cannot go unanswered both because of its flagrant abuse of the truth and because there are serious program considerations that could affect the people we are committed to serve. This is not meant to be a counterattack against Dr. Pratt because as you know, the history of PASO's involvement with him is replete with documents and meetings detailing "who struck John". More of this cannot be productive.

Since the earliest of our vessel procurement effort, through this last referenced report, it has become abundantly clear to me that Dr. Pratt has focused on what have become three major obsessions, namely the inability of the Liktanur II to properly carry out the BNL medical charter, the involvement of C. E. Otterman on voyages and my performance. There is no need to reference the documents which I believe support this view, as you have read them all and they have been discussed until words fail.

I wish now, however, to address those specific allegations and accusations which Dr. Pratt has made in his trip report.

1. On page 3, I allegedly failed to tell Dr. Pratt that I had invited exposed and control group persons living on outer islands other than Rongelap and Utirik to Majuro and Ebeye for examinations by BNL, and that their expenses would be paid.

ANSWER: I was asked by an exposed person on Jaluit when I accompanied the BNL bio-assay team to Kili in May 1979, why they couldn't get examined by the BNL doctors. I made an on the spot decision that these people should not be denied examinations by virtue of their habitat in the Marshalls and I told the person that the next time BNL came to Majuro or Ebeye an announcement would be put on the radio hopefully in time for him to catch a field trip ship and be examined. I committed that his expenses

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MEDICAL PROGRAM

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of travel and subsistence costs would be met. I advised Dr. Pratt of this by letter dated June 6, 1979. This was documented in my June 4, 1979, Trip Report to you with a copy to Dr. Pratt and my September 18 Trip Report, copy to Dr. Pratt. In addition, in a subsequent telephone conversation with Dr. Pratt I advised him of these decisions and he acknowledged them with no particular comment. He was also told of this in my office in September 1979 although I made no mention of reimbursing the patients. This was something I meant to discuss with Dr. Pratt. I should have, but forgot to do so. We did take immediate action when Dr. Pratt notified the DOE Coordinator on Kwajalein of the problem, but unfortunately the Marshalls Government did not give him our message promptly and the funds were sent by the bank to Guam instead of Majuro. In spite of this, the two people were well taken care of on Majuro and did receive expense money.

2. On page 4, Dr. Pratt finds fault that PASO sent his message to the Chief Secretary for transmittal and that PASO sent \$2,000 instead of the \$1,000 requested.

ANSWER: It is routine to send a message to someone who has no permanent address in Majuro and who is U.S. Government affiliated, to the Office of Chief Secretary. I made the decision to send R. Pratt \$2,000 and since the charges come to over \$1,600 the decision needs no further comment.

3. On page 6, Dr. Pratt references a message I sent to Enewetak stating that the Utirik person who wanted to be examined would be paid \$10.00 per day, and implies this caused problems because other people were paid \$27.00 per day.

ANSWER: The message says nothing about \$10.00 per day, rather " . . . His transportation from Enewetak to Ebeye and return plus normal expenses will be paid by BNL . . .".

4. On page 13, Dr. Pratt notes among other things that I failed to provide for meetings.

ANSWER: Dr. Pratt wanted a town meeting in Majuro with Rongelap, Utirik, and Bikini people some two and a half weeks after I was to leave Majuro. I did have his mission and schedule announced over the radio as he requested. Experience has taught me that meetings of this nature should be announced one day or two ahead of time if reasonable attendance is to be expected. Because of this and because the BNL schedule might have been slightly altered for some reason, I decided not to make an announcement. Rather, I told Peter Heotis of BNL on Kwajalein of this and suggested that since he and Bill Scott would be going to Majuro a couple of days in advance of the medical team's arrival, that they could better make timely arrangements for the meeting. To do this would take about 15 minutes of one person's time. When I explained this to Dr. Pratt on his return, he told me that Scott and Heotis had been too busy to do this.

5. On page 13 he again states that my "unique, unilateral field decision of medical policy . . ." had never been discussed with him.

ANSWER: This has been addressed in my answer number 1. Further, this decision was administrative and not "medical policy". Finally, to say that it was not discussed with him is a total untruth.

6. On page 13 and 14, Dr. Pratt gives evidence that the few patients who were examined as a result of my announcement " . . .at great expense to the BNL medical program --- will have little or no impact on our scientific data".

ANSWER: The background to this is given in answer number one. It is true that I feel strongly that all exposed persons and control persons should be examined if they wish, not to satisfy a BNL percentage but to reassure these individuals as to their health status and afford them the same opportunity as the others in their "group". These few persons, it seems to me, should not be excluded just because they live on other outer islands in the Marshalls. As to Dr. Pratt's assertion that this was done " . . .at great expense to BNL . . ." I can only ask you to consider the cost of sending the ship and the medical team to another outer island for a few days. I consider the \$2,000 some dollars to examine these people to be a very worthwhile and cost effective endeavor.

7. On page 14, Dr. Pratt says " . . . Mr. Brown admitted that he had made the arrangements for the use of the boat for our survey".

ANSWER: This is patently false. Tony Greenhouse originally made arrangements for boat transportation. My Trip Report June 4, 1979, copy to Dr. Pratt recommends PASO make future arrangements " . . . small boat support from Ejit to Majuro was not negotiated in advance with a resulting overcharge". Dr. Pratt did not task PASO with this function for the September mission.

8. On page 15, I am credited with making an independent arbitrary decision to pay Ejit people \$10.00 per day for whole body counting.

ANSWER: This is a lie. I call your attention to Mr. Greenhouse's letter to PASO dated March 23, 1979, "A \$10 subsistence allowance will be provided to the Bikinians on Ejit who will be monitored again". Common sense allows that I could not make a unilateral decision of this nature.

9. On page 15, Dr. Pratt says that my answer to all these problems was "I goofed". I cannot dignify that absurdity.

In conclusion, if it is not already abundantly clear, I am deeply disturbed by these allegations and take strong exception to them. I believe my work history and job performance for the Department of Energy speaks for itself. I have worked well and productively with my peers and superiors within the Department, with Micronesians from all walks of life, with Military officials and the DOE contractors - with, of course, this most notable and unfortunate exception.

I have expended about as much time and energy on these problems as I am able without affecting my job performance. It is difficult, if not impossible, at this point to see how I can continue to deal with this person in a professional manner consistent with the standards I have set for myself and those of PASO.

As Dr. Pratt's report has been widely circulated I ask that you allow this reply to be made available to that same group of persons.

Original Signed By
H. U. BROWN
Harry U. Brown
Program Liaison Officer

OP-758
HUB:jhf

cc: Roger Ray, DPO, NV