

REPOSITORY *DOE/PASO*
COLLECTION *DOE/NV*
BOX No. *1228, "ERDA # 3"*
FOLDER *BIO-MED, DR. CONARD*
07 thru 12/1969

October 6, 1969

Mr. Robert D. Law, Jr.
District Administrator
Trust Territory of the Pacific
Majuro, Marshall Islands 96960

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

SUBSISTENCE AND LODGING SUPPORT FOR MARSHALLESE MEDICAL PATIENTS

Dear Mr. Law:

This letter will serve to confirm the understandings reached during the discussions by W. K. Streenan of this office with W. M. Omby and W. H. Vandling at Rongelap on September 23, 1969, and with W. H. Vandling and Vincent Miller at Ebeye on September 24, 1969.

The Memorandum of Understanding between the Trust Territory and the Atomic Energy Commission which became effective September 15, 1966, in part provides that when a Marshallese patient is sent to the United States for special medical treatment, the Trust Territory will make necessary travel arrangements between the home island and Ebeye, and also the necessary subsistence and lodging arrangements at Ebeye. These support costs incurred by the Trust Territory will be reimbursed to the Trust Territory by the AEC.

With respect to the group of patients which recently underwent special medical treatment at Brookhaven National Laboratory, it is our understanding that two of the group, Betty Billiet of Rongelap and Nelly Ablos of Utirik, require support assistance (per diem allowance). The balance of the group, the other three patients and Dr. Riklon, the interpreter, do not require support assistance since they live on Ebeye.

To properly authorize Betty Billiet and Nelly Ablos to obtain support assistance while in travel status between their home islands and Ebeye and return, it is requested that travel orders be issued to each covering travel from their home island to Ebeye and return travel from Ebeye back to their home island. The established per diem rate of \$10.00 while in travel status in the Trust Territory is acceptable to the AEC. In this connection and as allowed by the Trust Territory travel regulations it is further requested that Betty and Nelly be given a cash advance against the travel orders to assist

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| OFFICE ▶ | A&T | A&T | A&T | Mgr. |
| SURNAME ▶ | <i>Streenan</i> | <i>Dryden</i> | <i>Hills</i> | <i>Bonnet</i> |
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October 6, 1969

then while they are awaiting transportation from Ebeye back to their home islands. It is suggested the travel orders cite the above mentioned Memorandum of Understanding as the authority and also note that the AEC will reimburse the Trust Territory for the costs incurred under these orders.

Although the following was not discussed with Messrs. Cunby or Vandling, it is our thought that if travel orders were issued to the patients covering the full journey rather than just for the part from home island to Ebeye and return, it would improve the relationship between the patients and our respective agencies.

Therefore, in connection with the future travel of Marshallese patients as initiated by the AEC, it is proposed that the GOVERNMENT (Trust Territory) furnish travel orders to the individual patients placing them in official travel status from the time of leaving their home island to the United States and until they return to their respective home islands. Authorization to travel via military aircraft between Rongerik and Honolulu, as the schedule dictates, will be issued by the AEC. The travel orders could be issued for a period not to exceed sixty (60) days and would carry two per diem rates; (1) the established rate of \$10.00 per day while in travel status in the Trust Territory to cover their expenses while traveling or awaiting transportation at Ebeye; (2) a rate of \$2.00 per day upon leaving Ebeye and while in travel status outside the Trust Territory. The rate of \$2.00 per day is considered a reasonable figure since all expenses for such items as transportation, clothing, subsistence and lodging are paid for by the AEC at the time the expenses are incurred.

If you feel that issuing travel orders covering the patients' full trip as indicated above would be helpful in carrying out the responsibilities of the Government, the following procedures to accomplish this are submitted for your consideration:

1. The AEC upon establishing which of the patients require special medical treatment will advise the Trust Territory District Administrator, Marshall Islands, in writing, giving the identity of the patient, home island location, points of travel, and time schedule for the travel and request that travel orders be issued to the individuals concerned. If travel by MAC is involved, these orders will accompany the request.
2. The Trust Territory based on the AEC request will issue travel orders to the individuals covering their travel for a period not to exceed 60 days, unless specified

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of the Trust, with a per diem allowance of \$10.00 within the Trust Territory and a per diem allowance of \$2.00 outside the Trust Territory. The ABC contract and the Memorandum of Understanding mentioned above will be cited as the authority for travel.

- 3. The individual's travel and per diem expenses incurred under the travel order will be paid to the individual by the Trust Territory and will be billed to the ABC. Upon receipt of billing by the ABC, reimbursement by check to the Trust Territory will be made promptly by the ABC's prime contractor, Hobbs & Server, Inc.

May we have your comments on this matter and should you desire any more information or have any questions please advise.

If you feel it would be helpful, arrangements will be made for Streaman to come to Majuro to assist in finalizing the details of this proposed arrangement.

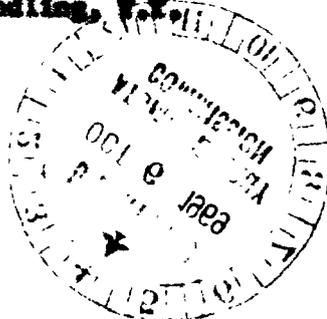
Very truly yours,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
WILLIAM A. BONNET

William A. Bonnet
Manager

HQA-1439

- cc: Hon. E.E. Johnston, HECOM, T.T.
- E. R. Miller, Mgr., HFOO
- Dr. Robert A. Conrad, HNL
- W. M. Ousby, T.T.
- W. H. Vandling, T.T.



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