

RONGELAP SURVEY

1963 -

October 11, 1963

Robert A. Conard, M. D.
Brookhaven National Laboratory
Associated Universities, Inc.
Upton, L. I., New York

Dear Bob:

I received your letter of October 1, 1963 concerning plans for next year's Rongelap Survey. What you have outlined appears quite satisfactory to us. I believe Mr. Coleman and Dr. Iaman would take care of the necessary arrangements from Majuro since they are quite aware about the survey schedule and plans.

As to my suggestions about a feast and other matters of social concern to the people at Rongelap, I have these further to suggest:

1. I would rather have the feast in which the people participate done two or three days before our departure and not early in the survey. The people may think if we give an early party that we are trying to bribe them. Would rather have the party as a farewell party as a token of friendship and appreciation of the people's cooperation in the surveys with a wish for the same spirit for future surveys.
2. No beer or liquor. To my knowledge, sale of beer or liquor is not allowed outside of the district center except at Ebeye and other areas approved by the Marshallese Congress. In view of this soft drinks would be adequate for all at these community gatherings. (You can have your drinks in your own quarters.)
3. Going-away gifts could be included at this farewell party for children and other groups.
4. Community gifts in the form of cooking pots for each family group would be a very nice one. Something they can feel and use with some benefit from - young and old. (Could always think of some other forms of gift each year.)
5. Extra gifts for those who may need special examinations as bone marrow and such would be appreciated and would cause less refusal if needed in the future. A bag of 50 lb. rice or flour each would be my suggestion for this kind of special examinations. In the long run, less than \$5.00 a person for this type of examination would pay for your continuing bone-marrow studies on a few selected cases.

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6. My last suggestion (which I think is quite important), is that we should have a community meeting upon arrival (first day) to greet the public, introduce the survey team members and bring in the open the purpose of the team's visit and request their cooperation in the routine and special examinations required during the survey. This should include answering questions, etc., if any. It may be a repetitious concern and time consuming as we definitely need to get to work right away but a few hours of this kind would definitely clear the air for all concerned. We then could expect a much better cooperation and a smoother operation of our survey work. Dr. Ezra could do the interpreting.
7. Don't forget movies and other recreational aids for the young people at Rongelap.

We are expecting a new Assistant Director of Medical Services soon for one of our Headquarters position. He may arrive while I'll be gone to Manila for a World Health Organization Seminar on Health Surveys and Reporting on national basis. I'll be gone October 21 - November 12. Upon my return we may tour the districts together and probably would get a chance to check further on things at Majuro in preparation for the survey.

Hope my suggestions are satisfactory to you. Let me hear from you if you have further ideas and plans.

With best wishes

Sincerely yours,

A. Hicking
Acting Director of Medical Services

cc: Distad, Marshalls
Dist. Dir. Med. Services, Marshalls

AHICKING:tp
File: Rongelap

BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY
ASSOCIATED UNIVERSITIES, INC.

UPTON, L. I., N. Y.

TEL. YAPHANK 4-6262

REFER:

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

October 1, 1963

Dr. A. Hicking
Trust Territory of the
Pacific Islands
Marshall Islands District
Majuro
Box 1395, Navy 825
FPO San Francisco, California

Dear Al:

I am trying to firm up plans for the next survey and enclose copies of correspondence between Mr. Goding and myself as well as a letter to Mr. Coleman. These letters outline most of the plans in regard to personnel, logistics, etcetera. In regard to your Trust Territory personnel's participation, I would appreciate your getting this settled with Mr. Coleman and John Iaman. I hope that the survey schedule as outlined in the letter to Mr. Coleman is satisfactory to you.

In regard to the examinations, I would like your concurrence in the following plans, which are about the same as last year's.

<u>Histories</u>	Ezra Riklon -
<u>Pediatrics</u>	Dr. Robert Carter (with the help of one of the Rongelap people).
<u>Adults</u>	You and Dr. Alvin Watne
<u>Ophthalmology</u>	Col. Lowrey (with the help of Rongelap man, Bweo. (?))
<u>Dental</u>	Dr. Lyon (with the help of dental technician or practitioner -TT?)
<u>Hematology</u>	Dr. Meyer, Irving Jones (Sebio, Kosang - ?) L. Cook.
<u>Administration</u>	Urines, blood cultures - R. A. Conard W. Scott (with the help of Samson or any Rongelap man).
<u>X-ray</u>	(Kalman - ?) with help from Libby.
<u>Photography</u>	Libby

Dr. Hicking

October 1, 1963

Collection of family pedigree data - Byron Bender (?), or another Anthropologist

Electronics - Doug Clarius

Cooks - Two (2) (Salvadore, Abraham - ?)

Dr. Behnke was pleased with the anthropometric measurements that you made last year and perhaps we may get some more measurements on the next survey. Dr. Watne wants to do "PAPP" smears on all adult women again. Some EKG's may be done.

I have mentioned the need of a good boat with motor to Mr. Coleman since I think it is important to get the old people from the end of the Island in for complete examinations. I believe we should try to get the people from Eniaetok down to Rongelap for complete examinations also (EKG's, X-rays, etc.). Probably we will have to use the community boat for this.

Dr. Lyon will study dentition in the exposed and control children, related to retardation of growth and development. Can you furnish a dental technician or practitioner to help him? Dr. Lyon will go to Ebeye at the beginning of the survey for a three-day period to do dental exams on the Rongelap people there, since he has to leave for the United States at the end of the Rongelap survey. Can he use dental facilities at Ebeye for this? Can you furnish a dental field unit for the Rongelap survey? He would also like to know what you have in your dental unit, (a chair, spotlight, instruments?); I presume you will be bringing along your medical field kit, which includes narcotics and usual drugs. We will bring along a few other drugs. Can you also furnish a microscope for hematology work? Perhaps you could also furnish an extra stretcher for bringing the old people in.

I would like to follow through on your suggestions about a feast for the people in which they participate. Don't you think this should be held early in the survey to help rapport? Do you think we could purchase a couple of pigs for the people to cook, and ask them to furnish fish, coconuts, and prepared food? We would furnish rice, canned hams (corned beef, soy sauce, pudding, etc.?). Could we serve beer for the adults, for instance, a maximum of two per person? Soft drinks for the others? In addition, I thought we might still plan our going-away party with perhaps little gifts for the children only. Do you think we should give any community gift? How about some cooking pots, one for each family group?

Libby will be in charge of our food purchases ^{for} on Rongelap. He is planning menus now. Do you have any suggestions?

I hope the pertussis epidemic in the Marshalls' is under control, and that you have been able to give the Rongelap people the immunizations that we recommended. Looking forward to hearing from you in regard to the above plans,

With best regards,

Cordially yours,

Bob

Robert A. Conard, M.D.

Encs.
gmd

P.S. I have not added an interpreter since you handle that aspect well. What do you think?

**BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY
ASSOCIATED UNIVERSITIES, INC.**

UPTON, L. I., N. Y.

TEL. YAPHANK 4-6262

REFER:

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

September 30, 1963

Mr. Peter Coleman
District Administrator
Marshall Island District
Box 1395, Navy 824
FPO San Francisco, California

Dear Pete:

We are proceeding with the plans for the next medical survey. I have written Mr. Goding (copy of letter enclosed) in regard to these plans and he has suggested that I correspond directly with you and Dr. Hicking. I believe he has designated Dr. Hicking to represent the Trust Territory on the next survey. I am also writing to Dr. Hicking and Dr. John Iaman in regard to the medical aspects of the survey.

I had thought that I might come out to the Islands this fall, particularly if anything developed in regard to selecting the site for a permanent building on Rongelap, but since this latter has not materialized, I believe that we should be able to complete our survey plans adequately through correspondence.

Personnel to participate from the United States are as outlined in my letter to Mr. Goding except that Dr. Karnofsky is not going. The Trust Territory personnel will have to be settled by yourself, Drs. Hicking and Iaman. I am trying to get one further addition to the team, an anthropologist, to help us with gathered pedigree data on the Rongelap people. I have written Mr. Goding in regard to the possibility of securing the services of Byron Bender of his staff in this regard. If he cannot go, I may contact Jack Tobin (Berkeley) or Dr. Mason (Hawaii).

The following is the survey schedule which I hope will be convenient for you, since I am trying to tie it in with a trip to Japan just prior to the survey.

- February 27 - TT ship leaves Majuro.
- " 28 - TT ship arrives at Kwajalein in A.M., unloads medical team and survey equipment and leaves in afternoon for Rongelap.
- " 29 - Arrive Rongelap.

Dr. Coleman

September 30, 1963

- March 1 through March 15 - Western field trip and Rongelap survey.
- March 15 - Leave Rongelap
- March 16 - Arrive Kwajalein, off-load, Trust Territory ship leave in P.M. for Majuro.
- March 17 - Trust Territory ship arrive Majuro. Medical exams Ebeye.
- March 21 - Complete Ebeye exams.
- March 22 - Medical team to Majuro via Navy plane, possibly Trust Territory plane also? It would be appreciated if you can arrange for the weekend Trust Territory plane to carry some of the personnel and equipment to Majuro.
- March 23 - Exams Majuro.
- March 24 - Complete exams Majuro.
- March 25 - Medical team departs.

As stated in my letter to Mr. Goding, it would be very helpful if, on the field trip prior to the survey field trip, you can arrange for your ship to pick up some 10-12 boxes of medical equipment from the warehouse at Kwajalein and off-load these boxes at Rongelap, to be stored in their Council House or warehouse. Mr. Ben Wilson of the ~~PLG~~ Department at Kwajalein knows about these boxes. If there are any stevedore charges at Rongelap, I will reimburse you. We hope to get an advance group in several days before our arrival at Rongelap, in order to set up laboratory and electronic facilities. Since they will be going in by Navy plane, they would not be able to bring the boxes referred to.

This year, we would particularly like to borrow a good boat with motor to have available at Rongelap during the survey, since we would like to have some of the old people from outlying areas in for complete examinations.

It is requested that a food allowance for the Trust Territory personnel of \$196.00 be made available in advance of our arrival to Bill White in Kwajalein. This figure is based on last year's survey, and covers 17 days messing at Rongelap. This is broken down as follows:

Cook's salary	- (\$3.33/day) for 21 days	\$70.00
Assistant cooks pay	- (2.88/day) for 21 days	60.48
Estimated food cost	-	<u>425.00</u>
	TOTAL	\$555.48

Dr. Coleman

September 30, 1963

The total cost for six Trust Territory personnel (Cook not included) \$196.00. If this figure is too much, the excess will be returned to you, and if too little, the individuals will be assessed the difference.

Would you please notify the Rongelap people about the impending survey, and also request rental of the same house we used last year for the period of the survey. We paid them \$1.00 per day rental.

I believe this covers the major aspects of the plans. Please let me hear from you if they are not agreeable.

Looking forward to seeing you in February, and with best regards,

Sincerely yours,



Robert A. Conard, M.D.

gmd
Enc.

July 19, 1953

Honorable Wilfred Goding
High Commissioner
Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands
Saipan, Mariana Islands

Dear Mr. Goding:

Since I saw you here last, I have gone ahead with plans for the next annual medical survey of the Rongelap people. I mentioned to you that I may have the opportunity to visit Tokyo in advance of the survey to examine the Japanese fishermen who were involved in the same fallout incident as the Marshallese. Since I am not certain when next February these examinations will be done, I hope that you will be willing to leave the exact starting date of the survey (probably in late February) flexible for the time being.

Since we would not include Utiirik in the survey this year, your trust territory ship would only be involved for about 23-24 days and, as was done last year, the usual western field trip could be carried out in conjunction with the survey. We plan also on examining the Rongelap people living on Ebeye and Majuro, but since this takes place at the end of the survey on Rongelap, it would not necessitate use of the ship. We would appreciate it if Mr. Coleman could arrange for the ship to stop by Kwajalein on the usual field trip going to Rongelap a couple of months prior to the survey trip, and pick up some boxes of equipment to be off-loaded at Rongelap and stored for us in the Council House or warehouse. We would like to send an advance group of about 3 people by Navy plane to Rongelap several days before the main group arrives in order to set up the labs, etc. beforehand.

In regard to personnel, I have 11 and possibly 12 doctors and technicians lined up from here. If the shielded room is used for whole body counts, then two additional personnel would be needed (this is indefinite and depends on whether we have a permanent building on Rongelap in time for the survey). The following persons are planning to participate:

H. A. Conard, M.D.
L. Meyer, M.D., Hematologist
A. Carter, M.D., Pediatrician
A. Watne, M.D., Surgeon
D. Clarius, Electrical technician
I. Jones, Technician
E. Libby, Photographer

A. Lowrey, Col. (MC) USA
Ophthalmologist

~~(?) D. Karbofsky, M.D., Internist~~
R. Lyon, Capt. (DC) USN Dental Off.
W. Sects, Technician
L. Cook, Technician

As in the past, it is hoped that you will find it agreeable to furnish the following Trust Territory medical personnel for the survey:

Practitioner, or, M.D.
Practitioner

Physical exams
History taking

(Dr. Hicking and Dr. Rikion, who accompanied us last year did an excellent job).

Technician
Technician
Technician
X-Ray Technician
Cook
Assistant Cook

Dental
Hematology (Sibio ?)
Hematology (Kosang ?)
(Kalman ?)

Salvatore
Abraham

I do not know if it will be necessary for me to go to the Islands in November as I did last year since the survey procedures, I think, are pretty well understood by now. However, there are a couple of possibilities that may make the trip desirable.

a) You may wish to have me meet and talk over the surveys with your new director of Public Health. (Do you have one yet?)

b) If the permanent building on Rongelap should be approved in time by the AEC to be completed before the next survey, it would be necessary that I go to Kwajalein to talk over the plans and also perhaps Mr. Coleman might want me to go to Rongelap with him to arrange for location and land rental for such a building.

I have not yet heard definitely as to whether the Japanese doctor in charge of the exposed fishermen will visit us at Rongelap during the survey. You mentioned that you thought there would be no problem in getting the Trust Territory clearance for him. I would appreciate it if you would obtain this for me. His name and address is Dr. Toshiyuki Kumatori (M.D.), National Institute of Radiological Sciences, 250, Kurosuna-cho, Chiba-shi, Japan; Dr. Kumatori is a well-known physician.

I will keep you informed of plans as they progress and will appreciate hearing from you in regard to same.

Cordially,

Robert A. Conard, M.D.

gnd



TRUST TERRITORIES OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMERCIAL
ABLE ADDRESS
HIGGOTT SAIPAN

August 5, 1963

Robert A. Conard, M. D.
Medical Department
Brookhaven National Laboratory
Associated Universities, Inc.
Upton, L. I., N. Y.

Dear Dr. Conard:

This is in reference to your letter of July 19, 1963 concerning the Rongelap survey.

I am requesting Mr. Coleman to answer your questions with respect to the use of the field trip ship and he will correspond direct with you on this aspect and the other questions you raised in the second paragraph of your letter.

We propose to have Dr. Hicking accompany the survey party as our representative. He would also be available as he was last year as a member of the Medical team. He will confer with Mr. Coleman and Dr. John Lamin on the technicians you require.

Unless something unforeseen develops, I do not feel it would be necessary for you to make the long trip to Saipan in November. The decision to go to Kwajalein to discuss the location of the permanent building on Rongelap is one you will have to make later after consultation with Mr. Coleman.

As the copy of our letter of August 2 to Dr. Kumatori indicated, we are prepared to consider entry for him.

Sincerely,

M. W. Goding
M. W. Goding
High Commissioner

cc: District Administrator,
Marshalls

BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY
ASSOCIATED UNIVERSITIES, INC.

UPTON, L. I., N. Y.
TEL. YAPHANK 4-6262

REFER:

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

September 27, 1963

Honorable Wilfred Goding
High Commissioner
Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands
Saipan, Mariana Islands

Dear Mr. Goding:

I am writing you specifically in regard to our obtaining someone with anthropological training to help us on the next medical survey at Rongelap. We have collected over the years a considerable amount of genetic data (blood groups, etc.) on the Rongelap people, which furnishes important base-line information on possible genetic effects of radiation. In order for this data to be meaningful and properly interpreted, it is necessary that we obtain as accurate information as is possible on the pedigree of these people, with genealogical data on the various blood relationships. I have been advised by those who are expert in this field that the only way to handle this matter correctly would be to have an individual with anthropological training, particularly one who is knowledgeable of the Marshallese people, join the expedition to complete these analyses. We have been in contact with Dr. Riesenbergs at the Smithsonian Institute and he has recommended three people whom he feels might be obtained to do this. The three are:

- 1) J. E. Tobin, formerly with the Trust Territory, now with the Department of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley, California.
- 2) Dr. Byron Bender, who is on your staff.
- 3) Dr. Leonard Mason, Department of Anthropology, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, Hawaii.

Before contacting any of the others on this list, I wonder if it might be possible to have Byron join us on the survey to help us with gathering this data. I know Byron very well personally and would be most happy to have him join us, if it would be agreeable with both of you. If this is not possible, I will then attempt to contact one of the other two.

We are proceeding with the survey plans and, as you suggested, I will be in contact in the very near future with Dr. Hicking and Mr. Coleman in regard to these plans.

It looks now as though we will not be able to do body burden radioactive evaluation on the people this year. For one thing, the estimated cost of

Mr. Goding


September 27, 1963

of this structure, ^{on Rongelap} was far too high and I am looking into other possibilities.

I appreciate your taking care of the necessary arrangements as far as the Trust Territory is concerned in regard to Dr. Kumatori's visit to Rongelap during the next survey. D.O.D. Form No. 398 has been forwarded to the Commander-in-Chief of the Pacific Fleet requesting permission for Dr. Kumatori to stop over at Kwajalein en route.

I would appreciate hearing from you at your earliest convenience with regard to Bender's participation in the survey in view of the necessary arrangements that will have to be made to get someone else. If you or John Young should have any other suggestions in this regard, I would welcome them.

Sincerely yours,



Robert A. Conard, M.D.

CC B. Bender

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

~~To Mr 1. PO~~
2. H.C.

TO : High Commissioner

DATE: October 4

FROM : B. Bender

SUBJECT: Dr. Conard's letter of September 27 (being ^{130 p} ~~revised~~ _{by HC} 1/14)

I hope you will see your way clear to authorize me to work with this group next February. I worked rather closely with them and with the Rongelap people in 1954-55. I would welcome this opportunity to visit that community again and believe that some educational purposes might be served as well. I should have some time while there to inspect the school and work with the teachers on this otherwise remote northern atoll.

B. Bender

BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY
ASSOCIATED UNIVERSITIES, INC.

UPTON, L. I., N. Y.
TEL. YAPHANK 4-6262

REFER:

act

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

July 19, 1963

Honorable Wilfred Goding
High Commissioner
Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands
Saipan, Mariana Islands

Dear Mr. Goding:

Since I saw you here last, I have gone ahead with plans for the next annual medical survey of the Rongelap people. I mentioned to you that I may have the opportunity to visit Tokyo in advance of the survey to examine the Japanese fishermen who were involved in the same fallout incident as the Marshallese. Since I am not certain when next February these examinations will be done, I hope that you will be willing to leave the exact starting date of the survey (probably in late February) flexible for the time being.

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R. A. Conard, M.D.	A. Lowrey Col. (MC) USA Ophthalmologist
L. Meyer, M.D., Hematologist	
R. Carter, M.D., Pediatrician	(?) D. Karnofsky, M.D., Internist
A. Watne, M.D., Surgeon	H. Lyon, Capt. (DC) USN Dental Officer
D. Clarius, Electrical technician	W. Scott, Technician
I. Jones, Technician	L. Cook, Technician
E. Libby, Photographer	

As in the past, it is hoped that you will find it agreeable to furnish the following Trust Territory medical personnel for the survey:

Practitioner, or, M.D.	Physical exams
Practitioner	History taking

(Dr. Hicking and Dr. Riklon, who accompanied us last year did an excellent job).

Technician	Hematology (Sibio ?)
Technician	Hematology (Kosang?)
X-Ray Technician	(Kalman ?)
Cook	
Assistant Cook	

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I have not yet heard definitely as to whether the Japanese doctor in charge of the exposed fishermen will visit us at Rongelap during the survey. You mentioned that you thought there would be no problem in getting the Trust Territory clearance for him. I would appreciate it if you would obtain this for me. His name and address is Dr. Toshiyuki Kumatori (M.D.), National Institute of Radiological Sciences, 250, Kurosuna-cho, Chiba-shi, Japan; Dr. Kumatori is a well-known physician.

I will keep you informed of plans as they progress and will appreciate hearing from you in regard to same.

Cordially,



Robert A. Conard, M.D.

gmd

May 9, 1963

PO

Robert A. Conard, M.D.
Brookhaven National Laboratory
Associated Universities, Inc.
Medical Department
Upton, L.I., N. Y.

Dear Dr. Conard:

Thank you for your letter of April 26, 1963 on the proposed permanent structure on Rongelap. I have sent a copy of your letter to the District Administrator in the Marshalls for his information also.

I regret to inform you that Dr. Macdonald died suddenly of a heart attack at Truk on May 1, 1963. I know you will want to inform other members of your group who had worked with him.

I shall look forward to seeing you in New York in June.

Sincerely,

M. W. Goding
High Commissioner

cc: Distad, Marshalls

Interior r.f.

JEDEYOUNG:rmj

File: P&SD-4 (Rongelap Med. Survey)

✓X-file: Public Health - (Rong. Med. Services)

BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY
ASSOCIATED UNIVERSITIES, INC.

UPTON, L. I., N. Y.

TEL YAPHANK 4 6262

REF ID:

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

April 26, 1963

Honorable Wilfred A. Goding
High Commissioner
Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands
Saipan, Mariana Islands

Dear Mr. Goding:

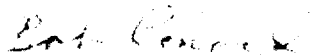
We have delayed answering your letter of January 18th, 1963 in regard to the proposed permanent structure on Rongelap. Though I do not have anything definite yet to report, I thought I should bring you up to date on what has transpired.

I have been asked by Dr. Dunham in Washington to obtain and present to him an estimate of the cost of the building. He has not indicated as yet whether or not he will be able to obtain approval for this structure. I have had some preliminary plans drawn up for a Butler-type building of aluminum construction, 24 x 68 feet dimension, with a concrete floor and two catchment water cisterns. As you suggested in your letter, this room would have space (3 rooms) for the whole body counter, X-ray, and some miscellaneous facilities. One of the rooms could be used in the interim between surveys as a meeting place for the people, but since their counsel house is more spacious than any one of these rooms, it might well be preferable as their meeting place. When I am able to present the cost estimate in Kwajalein and get further word on the outcome, I will let you know. I appreciate very much your support of this proposal.

As we did last year, I am sending a brief preliminary statement on the results of our recent medical survey to Dr. Hicking for our joint signatures. I have requested him to forward one of the signed statements to you.

Hope I will have an opportunity to see you in New York in June.

Sincerely yours,



Robert A. Conard, M.D.

RAC:gmd
CC: Drs. Bond, Bruner, Dunham

