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TT Invites Medics To Examine Nuke Victims

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SAIPAN—Three leading Japanese doctors have been invited by the Trust Territory government to participate in the US Atomic Energy Commission's annual physical examination of the inhabitants of the Marshall Islands Atolls of Rongelap and Utrik early next month. However, an official announcement has not yet been made by the High Commissioner and the names of the doctors have not yet been released.

The move by the Trust Territory government was prompted by protests by Congressman Ataji Balos regarding the deportation of a Japanese medical team expelled from the Marshalls in December. Balos took his fight to secure medical aid for his constituents to the Congress of Micronesia early this month in Palau. In a speech on the floor of the House of Representatives, he charged that the United States deliberately used the Marshallese as "human guinea pigs" by "knowingly and consciously allowing the people of Rongelap and Utrik to be exposed to the 154 fallout." He called the incident, "a crime unmatched in peace time."

At the conclusion of his speech, Balos introduced a resolution to create a joint committee to investigate Rongelap and Utrik and if necessary, secure medical aid. A similar measure was later introduced in the other house by Senate President Amata Kabua. The measures have now been passed by both houses.

In 1954, following the

detonation of a nuclear device at the US Pacific Proving Ground of Bikini, 239 Marshallese were exposed to harmful fallout radiation. Since then medical examinations annually. However, some Marshallese leaders feel that inadequate medical attention has been given to the radiation victims. In October, 1970, the Marshall Islands District Legislature passes a resolution requesting that non-government survey team examine the Rongelap and Utrik people.

Last August, Congressman Ataji Balos, on behalf of the Rongelap Municipal Council, invited a private Japanese medical survey team to the Marshalls to make examinations. However, the Trust Territory government approved only one of five entry permits applied for, contending that there was only one doctor in the group.

On December 7, 11 Japanese arrived on Majuro with tourist visas. The next day they were ordered to leave the territory by Acting Attorney General Robert Bowles for conducting "non-tourist activities." He said they were not tourists by their own admission.

Concerning the deportation, Congressman Balos said the TT government was trying to prevent "what might prove to be an embarrassing expose of American treatment of Marshallese radiation victims."

The US government has made some reparations to the fallout victims.

In 1966, \$950,000 was awarded to the Rongelapese as "compassionate relief." This amounted to \$11,000 per person.