

R142.001  
13 AUG. 1959

DISTRICT OFFICE - CENTRAL.

re: bush natives at Cundeeloe.

Further to my telephone conversation with you of 6th. instant, I attach hereto a letter received at this office from [redacted] of Kalgoorlie, which will serve to confirm my verbal advice to you.

[redacted] visited the Cundeeloe Native Mission on Sunday, 16th. August, 1959, and further examined the natives who are the subject of the present complaints in Parliament.

The natives referred to by me in my earlier reports and in discussions with you were seen and arrangements have been made between [redacted] and [redacted] for those natives to be brought to Kalgoorlie - possibly on approximately 26th. instant - for X-rays and blood tests and for any other tests which may be indicated as necessary.

[redacted] has confirmed his opinions, stated in the attached report, that the conditions of the natives are not consistent with the effects of radiation or nuclear fallout. He has confirmed his original diagnosis that the conditions are possible congenital syphilis; laboratory examination will confirm that opinion.

The last batch of people to arrive at the Mission have not been seen by me. [redacted] has advised me that there is no apparent deformity in this group and in fact he has expressed the opinion that they are "a remarkably healthy lot". It would appear that there is a high incidence of trachoma amongst the children and that condition is receiving treatment at the present time from the Mission authorities.

Several individual cases have been located by the doctor which will require treatment at Kalgoorlie but those cases could be typified by the case of one woman who has a badly set broken leg - cases which are in no way indicative of a poor state of health but understandable when one appreciates native matters in bush areas.

When [redacted] further examines all the persons whom he requires to see he will prepare and submit a further report. In the meantime he has assured me that the overall picture is not near as black as that painted by Press reports or as claimed in Parliament.

I will advise you further in this matter as more information becomes available to me.

For your information, please.

[redacted]  
A.D.O. EASTERN GOLDFIELDS.

Kalgoorlie,  
16th. August, 1959.

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