***ELDON JUDA* - Age 43 [Interviewed in 1981 in Utrik by G.A.]**

At the time of the bomb I was in Ailuk Atoll--I left from Utrik that January aboard a whale boat with some other men to bring back some goods from Ailuk. At the time of the bomb all of the people of Ailuk saw a great flash of red light in the western sky around 6:00 in the morning. After about fifteen minutes there was a great explosion that shook all of the houses, and I thought it was going to knock all of the houses down. All of the people were quite surprised and were reminded of the time the Americans fought the Japanese in our islands. The sound of the explosion was thunderous, and many people believed that the Day of Judgement had finally come.

After three months a ship came from Wotje Atoll and told us that the Utrik people had returned the previous week to their home island after being evacuated to Kwajalein, and then we returned to Utrik.

About ten years after the bomb we noticed that the arrowroot was starting to disappear. All of the time the AEC doctors kept telling us that everything was alright on Utrik. And then in 1963 they took Nelly to Cleveland for thyroid surgery and they have been taking people for surgery ever since--now they take people each year for thyroid surgery and the number of people keeps increasing. Dr. Conard from the AEC takes the exposed Utrik people to the States for surgery on their thyroid, and the rest have to have the surgery in Majuro hospital. My father--Juda--had his thyroid operation in Majuro and then he died shortly after that.

The problems are increasing over time, and we now have much fear and anxiety about what the future will bring. The United States has destroyed our health and our lives. I believe that children will get their illnesses from their parents, because now the children who were born after the bomb are getting radiation diseases.

We now ask for help from people in the United States--not from the AEC doctors

--because we are afraid for our health and our future. We need independent doctors because the AEC and Dr. Conarddoes not tell us the truth about our problems and we need honest doctors to help us understand our problems and our diseases.

They say that in Utrik we got 14 rads of radiation, but I believe that we got much more than that because many people who were not on Utrik at the time of the bomb now have been operated on for their thyroid, and the people are really frightened now. One of the major problems now is that people have much anxiety about the radiation because they do not understand what is going on. If we had truly independent doctors and scientists to tell us the truth then we would not have the fears we now have.