

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 5, 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Return of the Bikini People

Attached are memoranda from Secretary Udall urging that you announce a governmental decision that ~~the people of Bikini can now be safely relocated to their home island~~ and providing an explanation of why for security reasons we cannot at this time allow the people to return to Eniwetok. The Secretary proposes a ~~draft White House announcement and draft letters for your signature to the Secretaries of Defense and Interior, the AEC and the BoB directing them to carry out the Bikini resettlement.~~

Secretary Udall's recommendation is endorsed by State, Defense and the Atomic Energy Commission. It was also concurred in by Walt Rostow before he went on leave. High Commissioner Norwood has been working on this project with the AEC and the military authorities involved and has been strongly urging its approval at the earliest possible date.

George Christian has reviewed the desirability of releasing this announcement at the ranch and concurs in the Secretary's recommendation. Questions and answers and maps have been provided the Press Office to assist in briefing the White House Press Corps.

Tab A attached contains the documents to be released consisting of the Secretary's memorandum to you, the White House statement and the letters for your signature addressed to the Secretaries of Interior and Defense, the AEC and the Bureau of the Budget.

Brom
Bromley Smith

____ Approved; letters signed
____ Let Interior announce
____ Call me

Enclosures