

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

August 12, 1968

Alice: ~~Mr. Smith~~, FYI

Mr. Johnson brought this package back this morning (Mr. Schwartz had it). The announcement was made at the ranch this afternoon. I have typed the date on the letters and pulled my comeback copies. Origs. and copies are marked with yellow slips.

*M.B.*

Malinda Baker

*OK to  
keep*

EF

AUG 12 1963

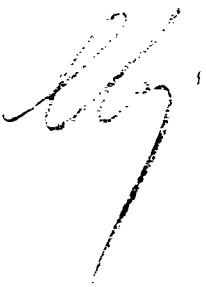
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Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Secretary of the Interior has reported to me that a special analysis of radiological levels of Bikini Atoll has resulted in the conclusion that the major islands of the atoll are now safe for human habitation. The Defense Department has also concluded that security requirements are such that the return of the former Bikini people to their traditional home can be accommodated.

The return of these people cannot, however, be accomplished overnight. There remains the major task of working with the Bikini leadership in planning the return, of removing any remaining sources of radiological contamination, of clearing the land and of replanting it to crops which will sustain human life and which will provide a source of income. New homes and new community facilities must be built with the active participation of the returning people. These tasks require resources beyond the means of the former Bikini people and of the Trust Territory Government. I, therefore, request you to work with the Secretary of the Interior and the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory in planning a comprehensive resettlement program and to assist them in carrying it out with all possible dispatch.

Sincerely,



Honorable Clark M. Clifford  
Secretary of Defense  
Washington, D. C. 20301

LBJ:CEJ:mlb (8-5-68)

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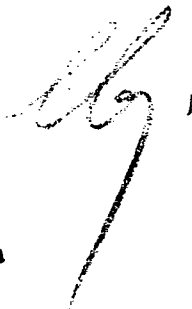
AUG 12 1968

**Dear Dr. Seaborg:**

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**Sincerely,**



**Honorable Glenn T. Seaborg  
Chairman, United States  
Atomic Energy Commission  
Washington, D. C. 20545**

**LBJ:CEJ:mlb (8-5-68)**

AUG 12 1958

**Dear Mr. Secretary:**

**I have your memorandum regarding Bikini and am pleased that we can now announce the return of these people to their former home. This is an announcement which I have made today. I have also requested the Secretary of Defense, the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, and the Director of the Bureau of the Budget to cooperate with you and to assist you and the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory to effectuate a resettlement program.**

**Resettlement will require careful planning and the appropriation of funds if we are to demonstrate to the people of the Trust Territory that we will fulfill our commitments. I urge that you undertake this task immediately. It is our goal to assist the people of Bikini to build on these once desolated islands a new and model community.**

**Sincerely,**



**Honorable Stewart L. Udall  
Secretary of the Interior  
Washington, D. C. 20240**

**LBJ:CEJ:mlb (8-5-68)**

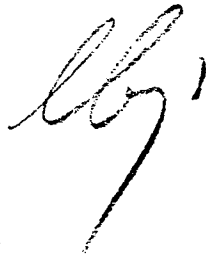
AUG 12 1968

**Dear Mr. Zwick:**

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**Sincerely,**



**Honorable Charles J. Zwick  
Director, Bureau of the Budget  
Washington, D. C. 20425**

**LBJ:CEJ:mlb (8-5-68)**

For Geo. Christian  
at Anster

all of T & A to  
be released.

## 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.

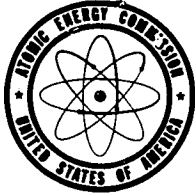
George Christian has reviewed the desirability of releasing this announcement at the ranch and concurs in the Secretary's recommendation. Questions and answers and maps have been provided the Press Office to assist in briefing the White House Press Corps.

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



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UNITED STATES  
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20545

August 2, 1968

Mr. Loyd Hackler  
Associate Press Secretary  
The White House

Dear Loyd:

The Interior Department informs us that Secretary Udall has transmitted to the President a memorandum concerning the return of the Bikini natives to their atoll. The Bikinians were moved in 1946 in order to permit the atoll to be used for atomic testing. They ultimately settled on Kili Island in the southern Marshalls and have retained an intense desire to return to Bikini.

Accompanying Secretary Udall's memorandum is a proposed White House announcement of the decision to return the natives. This announcement describes the radiation survey conducted by the AEC which concluded that Bikini is once again safe for human habitation.

Since the President's announcement probably will result in inquiries to us concerning the radiation survey, we have prepared the attached statement which we plan to issue after we receive word from you that the President has made the announcement. We have discussed this statement with Charles Johnson of Mr. Rostow's office.

Also, we have some motion picture footage on Bikini which we will make available to the networks. We would appreciate it if you can let us know as much in advance as possible when the President's announcement will be made.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Harris".

John A. Harris, Director  
Division of Public Information

Attachment

cc: Charles Johnson  
National Security Council

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AEC CHAIRMAN SEABORG ISSUES STATEMENT ON BIKINI

(Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg, Chairman of the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission, today issued the following statement on AEC's role in the decision to allow the former residents of Bikini to return to their atoll.)

It has been greatly satisfying to my fellow Commissioners and me to take part in the decision, announced today by President Johnson, to return the Bikinians to their atoll. The attached AEC report on the radiation survey of Bikini was a cornerstone of that decision.

The report, which declares the atoll once again safe for human habitation, represents the work of many highly qualified men, including the scientific team which surveyed the islands in 1967 and the special consultant committee of experts who produced the report.

It has been just over 10 years since the last nuclear test took place at Bikini on July 22, 1958. The intervening years have brought a remarkable recovery on the islands, as AEC sponsored research teams noted in both 1964 and 1967.

The 1967 survey was made at the request of the Secretary of the Interior whose department is responsible for the welfare of the Bikini natives. The Bikinians were moved from their atoll in 1946 before the first nuclear test took place.

The team which visited the atoll in 1967 included radiological and health physicists, marine biologists, a tropical

(more)

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agriculturalist, an anthropologist and representatives of the Pacific Islands Trust Territories, Department of the Interior.

Eight of the most highly qualified experts available were asked to review the survey material. After meeting with members of the survey team and examining their reports, these consultants reached the unanimous conclusion that it would be radiologically safe to allow the Bikini people to return to their home atoll. Their report was forwarded to the Secretary of the Interior earlier this month.

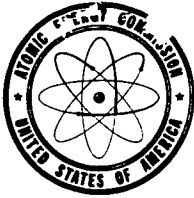
While Bikini is best known as a weapons testing site, it has also contributed significantly to man's knowledge of the long term effects of radiation on an environment.

During the years when radiation levels were too high for people to live there permanently, the AEC sponsored several scientific studies on the atoll. In fact, Bikini truly served as a living ecological laboratory.

Before it was either a proving ground or laboratory, though, Bikini was a home land. Having been closely associated with nuclear energy, and Bikini, for all these years, I find it particularly gratifying now to take part in the atoll's return to usefulness as a home for the Bikinian people.

Copies of the technical data from <sup>the</sup>~~that~~ survey are available for examination at the Public Document Room in AEC's Washington office at 1717 H Street.

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UNITED STATES  
**ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION**  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20545

**August 2, 1968**

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Associate Press Secretary  
The White House**

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Accompanying Secretary Udall's memorandum is a proposed White House announcement of the decision to return the natives. This announcement describes the radiation survey conducted by the AEC which concluded that Bikini is once again safe for human habitation.

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Also, we have some motion picture footage on Bikini which we will make available to the networks. We would appreciate it if you can let us know as much in advance as possible when the President's announcement will be made.

**Sincerely,**

Signed John A. Harris  
**John A. Harris, Director  
Division of Public Information**

**Attachment**

**cc: Charles Johnson  
National Security Council**

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UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

Memorandum

To: The President  
From: Secretary of the Interior  
Subject: Return of the Bikini People

AUG - 1 1968

In 1946 the United States found it necessary to move the people of Bikini from their atoll in order to permit the area to be used for atomic testing. These people, originally about 150, were ultimately settled on Kili island in the southern Marshalls. They have never adjusted to Kili, which is small and has no lagoon, and have retained an intense desire to return to Bikini.

In early 1967, at my request and that of Trust Territory High Commissioner Norwood, the Atomic Energy Commission made a special survey of the atoll in order to determine whether radiation levels were such as to enable people safely to live on its islands. Following this intensive survey of the atoll and a review by a special committee of consultants, an affirmative conclusion was reached. Attached is a copy of the special committee's report. The committee concluded that Bikini Atoll, site of more than 20 nuclear tests between 1946 and 1958, is once again safe for human habitation.

At my request, the Secretary of Defense has pushed ahead with a special study of security requirements in that part of the Pacific and has advised me that return of the people to Bikini is compatible with those requirements. The Defense Department may wish to install some unmanned devices, such as radar towers, and on a limited scale station personnel on the atoll, but these activities will not prevent resettlement by the Bikinians nor be inconsistent with the re-establishment of their normal life on the atoll.

The 1967 AEC survey team undertook an intensive study of the atoll measuring external radiation levels and the radioactivity content of soil, water and plants and of animal life. The last previous survey had been made in 1964 as a part of continuing studies of the atoll since 1946.

The survey team noted that vegetation on the islands of the atoll is dense and that the populations of birds and the marine life of the lagoon were large. However, the coconut trees which are the basis of human life and the economy of coral atolls had been destroyed during the tests. The density of the new vegetation has largely checked their recovery.

The results of the survey have been analyzed by a special committee of consultants. The consultants concluded that:

"The exposures to radiation that would result from repatriation of the Bikini people do not offer a significant threat to their health and safety."

Although the consultants have judged the radiation levels on the atoll now to be acceptable, they made several recommendations for reducing exposure even further. These recommendations include:

(1) Restrict living areas to the major islands of Eneu (Enyu) and Bikini for the present and cover the village area with a layer of coral rock to reduce further the low level of radiation from the soil;

(2) Clean out the present population of strontium 90-bearing coconut crabs, which form a part of the diet of Pacific Islanders;

(3) Remove the radioactive scrap metal which still remains on some of the islands near the test sites; and

(4) Maintain a continual monitoring of the islands and the population to assure that they do not, in some unforeseen way, accumulate a greater radiation dose than predicted.

The committee of consultants also recommended that resettlement be initiated on Eneu island because of its very low contamination level. "No radiological precautions will be needed on Eneu," the committee reported.

We would propose to follow the recommendations of the consultants in developing a resettlement program. A copy of their report is attached for your information.

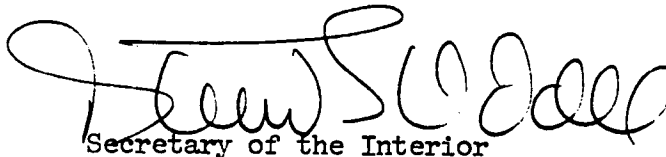
Return of the Bikini people cannot be immediate although we should take immediate steps to begin their return. A comprehensive plan must be developed; any remaining sources of major contamination removed; the overgrowth of uneconomic vegetation cleared; the land planted to productive crops; and new housing and community facilities built. We propose to do this with the active participation of the Bikini people in both the planning and execution stages. It will, however, also require the active cooperation of the Department of Defense, the Atomic Energy Commission and, in seeking funds for the resettlement project, the Bureau of the Budget.

Our tentative time table calls for the High Commissioner within the next few weeks to ask the Bikini people to name a group of their leaders to work in the planning stage. The second step is an on-island survey of the atoll to select those sites required by the Defense Department and to plan the location of the new village. At this stage, it is expected that the

preliminary resettlement plan will be drafted with the Bikini leadership participating. The visit to Bikini should take place in the last half of August or in early September. During the fall the plan would be completed and cost estimates presented.

Depending upon the availability of funds, the initial contingent of returnees might be settled within a year. Bikini workers would be engaged in clearing, planting, and building activities. Return of all of the Bikinians now living on Kili might be accomplished within two years. However, resettlement assistance will be required for a much longer period. The atoll is now virtually devoid of edible or economic plants and a feeding program will be required until subsistence foodcrops reach adequate levels and commercial crops come into production. It takes approximately seven years for newly planted coconuts to become fully productive. The coconut is essential to life on a coral atoll, providing food, drink, building materials, and, equally important, virtually the sole source of cash.

There is attached a draft announcement regarding the proposed resettlement of the Bikini people. Bikini and the desire of the people on Kili to return has recently been in the news and there continues to be widespread interest in these people. For these reasons, I request and urge your public announcement of the decision that the Bikini people can and will be relocated on their home atoll of Bikini.

  
Secretary of the Interior



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

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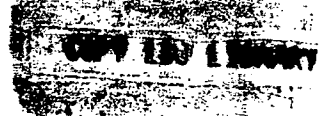
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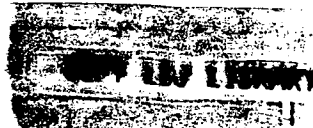
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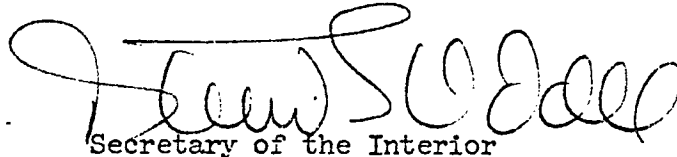


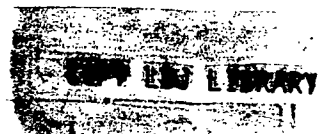


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Secretary of the Interior



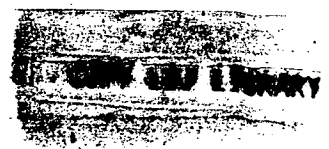
## ANNOUNCEMENT

The President announced today that plans are underway to permit the people of Bikini to return to their home atoll in the Marshall Islands. A special committee of expert consultants has reported to the Atomic Energy Commission that Bikini Atoll, site of more than 20 nuclear tests between 1946 and 1958, is once again safe for human habitation.

The Defense Department has reported after a special study that the return of the people is consistent with security requirements. There will be a continuing requirement for the use of some sites on the atoll and there may be a need for Defense Department personnel to be stationed on the islands from time to time. These uses will not prevent the return of the people nor the re-establishment of their normal way of life.

Bikini Atoll is a ring of 26 coral islands, 25 miles long and 15 miles wide, on the northwestern fringe of the Marshall Islands. Before 1946, when the Bikinians were moved to make way for nuclear tests, about 150 persons lived on the atoll. They moved first to Rongerik Atoll and since 1948 have lived on Kili in the southern Marshall Islands. The Kili population is now about 300 and a total of about 500 people regard Bikini as their traditional home.

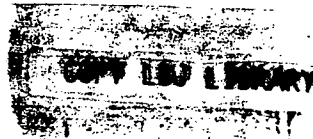
Because of the dense overgrowth of the islands and the lack of any substantial quantity of foodstuffs growing on the atoll, an extensive clearing and replanting program will be required. In addition, housing and community facilities, such as a school, dispensary, and a water



collection system, will be needed before the Bikinians can return from Kili.

The Bikini people will actively participate in both the planning and the execution stages of the resettlement program. The High Commissioner of the Trust Territory has been asked to request the Bikini people to name a group of their leaders to work with Trust Territory Government personnel and representatives of the United States Government in developing a comprehensive resettlement plan. This work is scheduled to begin with a visit to the atoll within the next few weeks by a team composed of Bikini representatives, and personnel from the Trust Territory Government, the Defense and Interior Departments and the Atomic Energy Commission.

It is the intent of the United States and the Trust Territory Government to work with the Bikini people in building a modern and model community on their atoll.



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**REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE TO EVALUATE  
THE RADIOLOGICAL HAZARDS OF RESETTLEMENT OF THE BIKINI ATOLL**

The Committee was convened to consider the question of whether the Bikini Atoll is safe for human habitation with respect to the radiological hazard. The detailed history of the various relocations of the Bikini natives is described in the appended material provided by Mr. Tobin (Appendix I).

We have examined the documents listed in Appendix II. In addition, we spent one and one-half days in detailed discussions with members of the 1967 Bikini Survey Team and other experts as shown in Appendix III. On the basis of the information provided, we have reached the following conclusions and recommendations:

1. The exposures to radiation that would result from the repatriation of the Bikini people do not offer a significant threat to their health and safety.
2. Such exposure may and should be further reduced by the following simple measures:
  - a. Restrict rehabilitation for the present to the islands of the Bikini-Eneu complex.  
(See Appendix IV)
  - b. Establish the first village and immediate food crops on Eneu. No radiological precautions will be needed on Eneu because of its very low contamination level. (See Appendix V)

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- 2 -

- c. Any village construction on Bikini Island should involve the covering of the site with coral rock as is the local custom.
  - d. Radioactive scrap metal should be removed from the islands adjacent to former shot sites.
  - e. The population of land crabs should be sharply reduced because of their high content of  $^{90}\text{Sr}$ .
  - f. If pandanus trees which produce edible fruit are planted on Bikini Island, two inches of topsoil should be removed from the planting sites. The area of removal from each site should be equal to the area covered by the crown of mature trees.
3. Determinations should be made of body burdens of  $^{137}\text{Cs}$  and  $^{90}\text{Sr}$  at the end of the first year of residence on the Atoll and as appropriate thereafter. Baseline surveys prior to relocation would be desirable. Resurveys of environmental radiation levels on the Bikini Atoll and estimates of radio-nuclides in food should be made periodically. These surveys will provide a continual check of the radiation status of the people and environment and will help form a basis for decision as to the time of rehabilitation of islands outside of the Bikini-Eneu complex

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- 3 -

4. Special efforts should be made to ensure a balanced and adequately nutritious diet. For example, a dietary supplement of powdered milk would materially reduce <sup>90</sup>Sr uptake by relieving the calcium deficiency usually associated with their diet.

Respectfully submitted:

Shields Warren  
John C. Bugher  
Robert A. Conard  
John B. Storer  
Paul Tompkins  
John H. Harley  
Charles L. Dunham  
S. Allan Lough

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**Letters to:**

**Secretary of Defense**

**Atomic Energy Commission**

**Director, Bureau of the Budget**

The Secretary of the Interior has reported to me that a special analysis of radiological levels of Bikini Atoll has resulted in the conclusion that the major islands of the atoll are now safe for human habitation. The Defense Department has also concluded that security requirements are such that the return of the former Bikini people to their traditional home can be accommodated.

The return of these people cannot, however, be accomplished overnight. There remains the major task of working with the Bikini leadership in planning the return, of removing any remaining sources of radiological contamination, of clearing the land and of replanting it to crops which will sustain human life and which will provide a source of income. New homes and new community facilities must be built with the active participation of the returning people. These tasks require resources beyond the means of the former Bikini people and of the Trust Territory Government. I, therefore, request you to work with the Secretary of the Interior and the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory in planning a comprehensive resettlement program and to assist them in carrying it out with all possible dispatch.

**President**

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**Secretary of the Interior**

I have your memorandum regarding Bikini and am pleased that we can now announce the return of these people to their former home. This is an announcement which I have made today. I have also requested the Secretary of Defense, the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, and the Director of the Bureau of the Budget to cooperate with you and to assist you and the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory to effectuate a resettlement program.

Resettlement will require careful planning and the appropriation of funds if we are to demonstrate to the people of the Trust Territory that we will fulfill our commitments. I urge that you undertake this task immediately. It is our goal to assist the people of Bikini to build on these once desolated islands a new and model community.

**President**



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Mr. Zwick:

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Sincerely,

Honorable Charles J. Zwick  
Director, Bureau of the Budget  
Washington, D. C. 20425

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

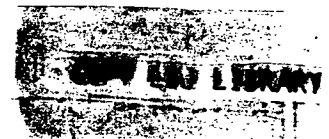
Dear Dr. Seaborg:

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Sincerely,

Honorable Glenn T. Seaborg  
Chairman, United States  
Atomic Energy Commission  
Washington, D. C. 20545



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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Sincerely,

Honorable Clark M. Clifford  
Secretary of Defense  
Washington, D. C. 20301

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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Sincerely,

Honorable Stewart L. Udall  
Secretary of the Interior  
Washington, D. C. 20240



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FACT SHEET

ON

DIFFERENCES IN NATURE OF BIKINI AND ENIWETOK ATOLLS  
AND DIFFERING DOD REQUIREMENTS FOR THESE AREAS

At the end of World War II, Bikini and Eniwetok were initially selected by the Department of Defense as sites for the testing of nuclear weapons. The Atomic Energy Commission, established in 1947, made use of the same sites in joint testing operations with the Department of Defense. Bikini was the site of the major atomic tests in 1946, while Eniwetok was used primarily in a supporting capacity and was not subjected to radioactive contamination to the same extent. In later years, major tests were conducted at both locations. After the voluntary nuclear test moratorium went into effect on 1 November 1958, Bikini, which was radioactive and uninhabitable, was unused; but Eniwetok became an inter-continental ballistic missile re-entry vehicle impact and scoring area. The US Navy conducted these operations on Eniwetok as part of the Pacific Missile Range, which on 1 February 1965 was transferred to the Air Force Western Test Range. Eniwetok has thus always been the western terminus of the Pacific missile testing range. There have been no military requirements for Bikini in recent years, and the only foreseeable military requirement may be for installation of one or two unattended radar reflector towers. These would be passive devices which would be used as precise navigation aids for missile-tracking ships.

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The residual radiological hazard on Bikini has been the major factor preventing the former natives from returning to their original homes. Now an AEC evaluation indicates that this danger has subsided.

However, the situation is quite different in regard to Eniwetok. While there has been no problem on Eniwetok with residual radioactivity, there is a continuing hazard from missile impacts. The lagoon, which Eniwetok atoll encloses, is the intercontinental ballistic missile re-entry vehicle impact and scoring area. Further, continuing research and development efforts in the missile field are directed, among other areas, toward multiple re-entry bodies, credible decoys, maneuvering vehicles and more sophisticated re-entry systems. Eniwetok Atoll is instrumented with optical, acoustical, and radar instrumentation for accurately locating ballistic missile impacts, all of which are extremely important in development and refinement of new missile hardware. Thus, the Department of Defense (DOD) has a continuing and long-term requirement for the instrumentation systems located on Eniwetok, and for the Eniwetok impact area itself. In order to satisfy US requirements for accurate impact data, both for research and development, and operational missile tests, Eniwetok will be vital to the national missile program well into the future. Because of these considerations, Eniwetok could not accommodate a return of the native inhabitants.

**QUESTION:**

Now that Bikini will be returned to the former inhabitants, when do you anticipate taking similar action regarding Eniwetok?

**ANSWER:**

The situations regarding Bikini and Eniwetok are quite different. Bikini, which has been unused since the voluntary nuclear test moratorium, has only recently been found sufficiently free of radioactivity to permit people to live there. Eniwetok, on the other hand, has for some time been employed as the western terminus of the Pacific Missile Testing Range and thus subject to a continuing hazard from missile impacts. Eniwetok continues to have a high degree of missile test activity and thus constitutes an essential link in our world-wide missile testing system. It thereby contributes to the security of the free world. Because of these considerations, the former inhabitants cannot be returned for the foreseeable future. However, this is a matter which will be given continuing review.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON BIKINI RETURN

1. Is this the first return of people moved in 1946?

Ans: This is the first return of people moved in 1946 from their home atolls to permit nuclear testing in the Trust Territory.

2. Have other areas been evacuated and what is the status today?

Ans: In 1954 the people of Rongelap were accidentally exposed to radioactive fallout. The 82 persons on the atoll were promptly evacuated and in 1957, when radio-activity reached safe levels, they were returned to Rongelap. The United States assisted them in replanting crops and in rebuilding housing and community facilities. An annual medical check is made of them by personnel from the Brookhaven National Laboratory. The current population of Rongelap is about 250 persons.

3. What is the legal status of Bikini?

Ans: Bikini Atoll is a part of the Marshall Islands which, in turn, are part of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. The Trust Territory is the former Japanese Mandate. In 1947 the United States placed it under the United Nations trusteeship system through a strategic trust agreement with the Security Council. It was administered under the Department of the Navy until 1951 when administrative responsibility was transferred to the Secretary of the Interior.

4. How long will it take to return the people to Bikini?

Ans: This is not certain. The first group, however, is expected to return within the first year and we hope the remainder of the population



will be able to return by the end of the second year. It will be necessary to clear the land, replant it, and build housing and community facilities such as a school and a dispensary. The Secretary of the Interior and the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory are to work with representatives of the Bikini people on a resettlement plan.

5. How much will the resettlement cost?

Ans: We do not have a precise estimate as to the cost. That will have to be developed after an on-the-ground survey and the development of the resettlement plan. An off-the-cuff guess would be in the neighborhood of \$1,000,000, but that is only a guess.

6. Is money available for the resettlement program?

Ans: Funds are not now available and we undoubtedly will have to request an appropriation after the resettlement program has been prepared and costs can be more precisely estimated.

7. How many people are involved?

Ans: There are currently about 300 people living on Kili. There may be as many as two hundred more who would have rights in Bikini. We are, thus, talking about 300 to 500 people being involved in the resettlement. There were about 150 persons living on Bikini at the time the atoll was taken for testing purposes.

8. How big is Bikini?

Ans: Bikini is composed of about 26 islands strung along a roughly circular reef. The dry land totals about 2.32 square miles. The lagoon area is about 229 square miles.

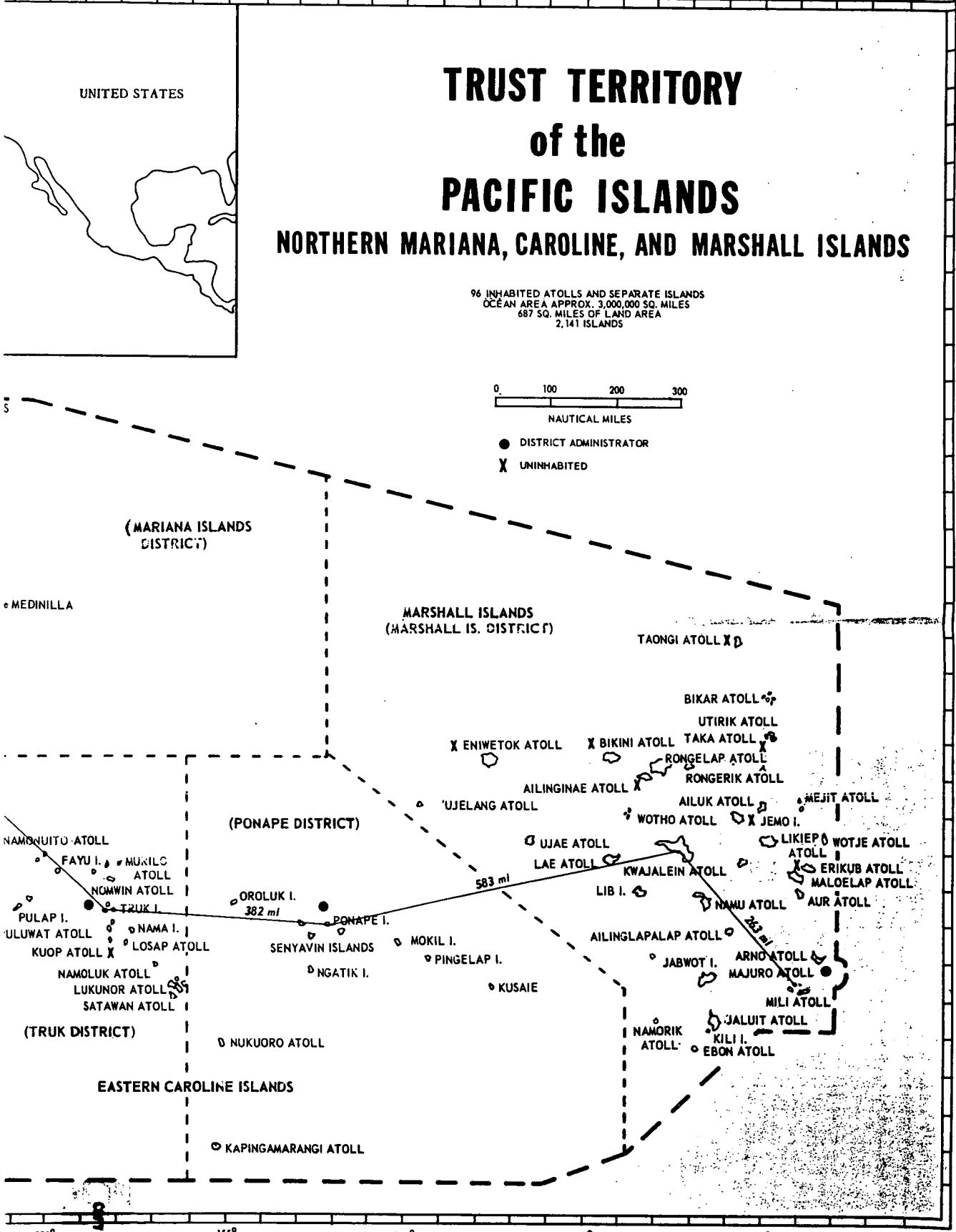
9. How big is Kili?

Ans: Kili is a single island without a lagoon. It has a much smaller area than the total Bikini land area, only 0.36 square miles. However, it is a more fertile island than Bikini and the smaller size is somewhat offset by greater productivity. The lack of a lagoon has been a major factor in the dissatisfaction of the former Bikini people.

10. How large are the Marshall Islands?

Ans: The total land area of the Marshall Islands amounts to approximately 70 square miles. There are about 1,156 islands. The land area of the Trust Territory (The Marshalls, Caroline and Marianas Islands) is approximately 700 square miles. The total geographical spread is about 3,000,000 square miles.

150° 155° 160° 165° 170°

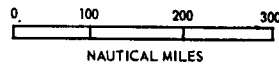


UNITED STATES

# TRUST TERRITORY of the PACIFIC ISLANDS

## NORTHERN MARIANA, CAROLINE, AND MARSHALL ISLANDS

96 INHABITED ATOLLS AND SEPARATE ISLANDS  
OCEAN AREA APPROX. 3,000,000 SQ. MILES  
687 SQ. MILES OF LAND AREA  
2,141 ISLANDS



● DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR  
X UNINHABITED

(MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT)

● MEDINILLA

MARSHALL ISLANDS (MARSHALL IS. DISTRICT)

TAONGI ATOLL X

BIKAR ATOLL ●

UTIRIK ATOLL ●

TAKA ATOLL ●

RONGELAP ATOLL ●

RONGERIK ATOLL ●

AILUK ATOLL ●

WOTHO ATOLL ●

JEMO I. X

LIKIEP ATOLL ●

WOTJE ATOLL ●

ERIKUB ATOLL ●

MALOELAP ATOLL ●

AUR ATOLL ●

NAMU ATOLL ●

LIB I. ●

KWAJALEIN ATOLL ●

AILINGLAPALAP ATOLL ●

JABWOT I. ●

ARNO ATOLL ●

MAJURO ATOLL ●

MILI ATOLL ●

KILI I. ●

EBN ATOLL ●

NAMORIK ATOLL ●

(PONAPE DISTRICT)

NAMONUITO ATOLL ●

FAYU I. ●

MURILC ATOLL ●

NOMWIN ATOLL ●

PULAP I. ●

ULUWAT ATOLL ●

KUOP ATOLL X

NAMA I. ●

LOSAP ATOLL ●

NAMOLUK ATOLL ●

LUKUNOR ATOLL ●

SATAWAN ATOLL ●

(TRUK DISTRICT)

EASTERN CAROLINE ISLANDS

OROLUK I. ●

382 mi

PONAPE I. ●

SENYAVIN ISLANDS ●

NGATIK I. ●

MOKIL I. ●

PINGELAP I. ●

KUSAIE ●

583 mi

MAJURO ATOLL ●

MILI ATOLL ●

KILI I. ●

EBN ATOLL ●

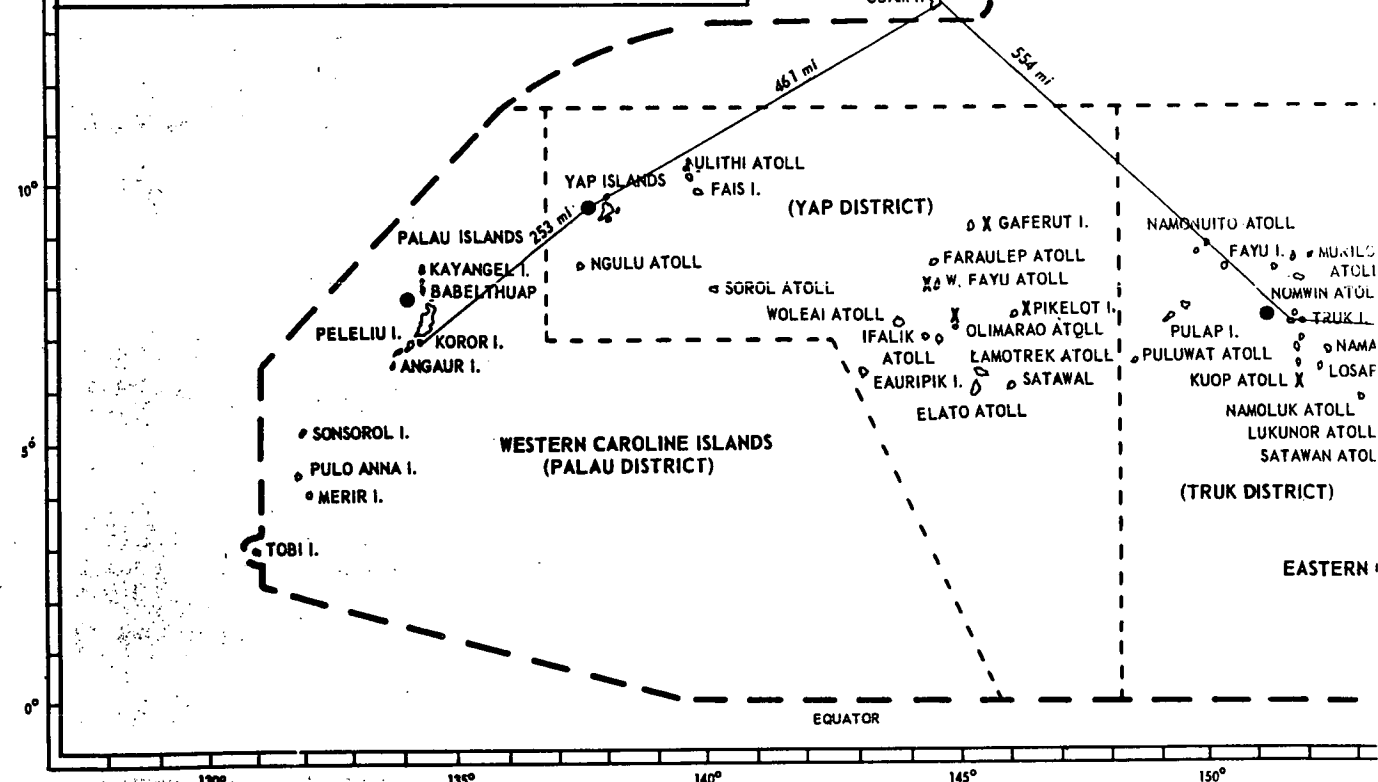
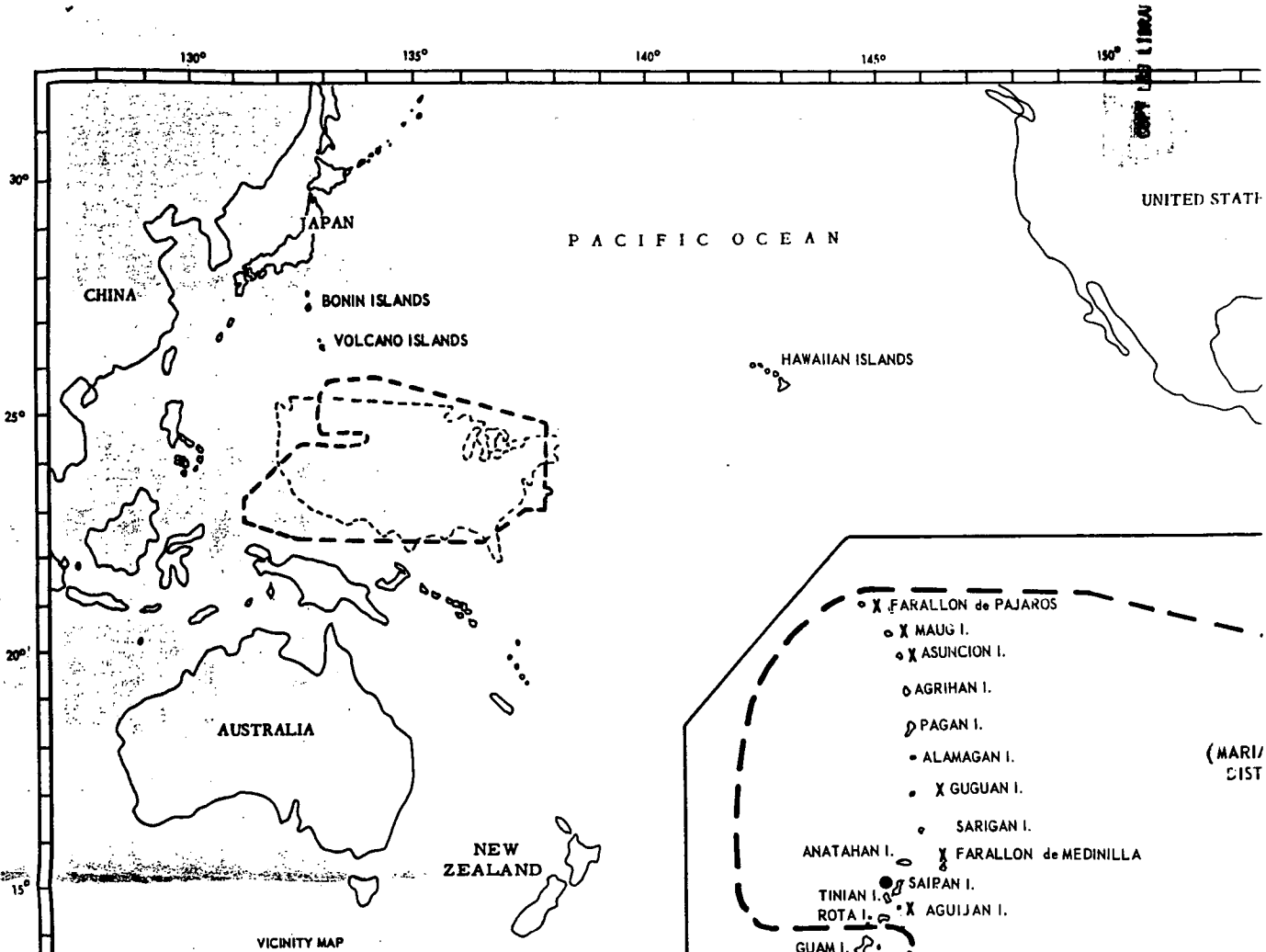
NAMORIK ATOLL ●

KAPINGAMARANGI ATOLL ●

40200

NOTE: Broken lines indicate territorial area and districts of jurisdiction and are not to be interpreted as boundaries.

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1951



EXECUTIVE

LE/ST 51

ST 51

August 5, 1968

Dear Mr. Fox:

Thank you for your letter of July 23, 1968. I'm sorry that business here, and my absence from Washington, prevented our getting together.

You are correct in your understanding that the Senate has passed a bill to create a political status commission for the Trust Territory, but that the House has not yet acted. The House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs has heard a presentation in support of the bill but has taken no action as yet. It is always a mistake to attempt to prejudge Congressional action, but as the session draws to a close the outlook appears less optimistic.

With respect to your proposals for economic development, a trip to Saipan would be appropriate. The High Commissioner is charged with the responsibility for promoting the use of the territory's resources and must make the evaluation of any such outside proposal. I would hope that you could present to him some specific proposals which can be subject to analysis and evaluation. Such specific proposals, I know, would be welcomed.

Sincerely,

Harry C. McPherson, Jr.  
Special Counsel to the President

Mr. Fred K. Fox  
11220 Smithdale  
Houston, Texas 77024

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