

3751
August 23, 1968

Dear Commissioner Nerwood:

I appreciated your thoughtful letter on the recent action returning Bikini Island to its inhabitants.

I am delighted that this action has been so well received by the islanders.

At a time when trouble besets so many people of this world, it is particularly gratifying to be able to restore this tiny island to peaceful use.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

BJ

**Honorable W. R. Nerwood
High Commissioner
Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950**

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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

(c)

August 22, 1968
Thursday - 6:15 p.m.

FOR THE PRESIDENT

Your recent action in declaring Bikini Island safe for human occupancy and establishing a redevelopment program for its native inhabitants has been extremely well received. It has real symbolic value in this area.

You have received the attached letter from Commissioner Norwood and I thought you might want to send a personal reply. A proposed response is attached.



DeVier Pierson

Attachment



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950

COMMERCIAL
CABLE ADDRESS
HICOTT SAIPAN

August 19, 1968

The Honorable Lyndon B. Johnson
President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

Your recent announcement that Bikini Island is once again safe for human occupancy and may now be redeveloped for that purpose has been received by the islanders with tremendous enthusiasm and appreciation. I have been asked by them to convey their gratitude to you.

At a time when there is so much speculation and apprehension among Micronesians regarding possible future U.S. military and defense requirements in this part of the western Pacific, the restoration of this one historic island to peaceful use and occupancy has had a reassuring effect on the attitude of the Micronesians toward the U.S. administration of this important territory.

May I add my personal thanks for your interest and assistance.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W. R. Norwood".

W. R. Norwood
High Commissioner