

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ROUTING SLIP

0002

TO	ADV ACT COPY TO	INFO COPY TO	TO	ADV ACT COPY TO	INFO COPY TO
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE		✓			
DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE		✓			✓
THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT					
SECRETARY OF THE ARMY			✓		✓
SECRETARY OF THE NAVY					
SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE					
CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF					
DIRECTOR, DEFENSE RESEARCH AND ENG					
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (A)					
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (Comp)		✓			
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (I&L)					
1 ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (ISA)	✓				

ACTION

PREPARATION OF REPLY FOR SECRETARY OF DEFENSE SIGNATURE	INFORMATION AND RETENTION
PREPARATION OF REPLY FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE SIGNATURE	DATA ON WHICH TO BASE A REPLY
REPLY DIRECT (Forward copy of reply to Secretary of Defense files)	COMMENTS AND/OR RECOMMENDATION
1 APPROPRIATE ACTION	SEE REMARKS BELOW
COORDINATE REPLY WITH:	

REMARKS

~~of me~~
 14P. Trust in...
 [Handwritten signature]

CONFIDENTIAL

THIS IS AN ACTION COPY ADVANCE ACTION COPY INFORMATION COPY

ACTION DUE NOT LATER THAN	ROUTING DATE	OSD CONTROL NUMBER	
	28 DEC 1968	7273	46

SD FORM 4 SEP 65

Doc 147

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THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

CM-3948-68
27 December 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Cleanup of Bikini Atoll by DOD/AEC, Requirement
Based on Military Interest (U)

1. (C) Reference is made to a memorandum by the Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense (ISA), I-15359/68, dated 23 December 1968, subject as above, which:

a. Forwarded your request for a memorandum setting forth the military interests involved;

b. Requested my comments on a proposal that DOD and AEC jointly assume the task of cleaning up the Bikini Atoll and that \$300,000 of the FY 1969 DOD Contingency Fund be expended for this purpose.

2. (C) The primary military interest involved in the cleanup of Bikini Atoll is in moving the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (TTPI), of which this atoll is a part, into a permanent relationship within the political framework of the United States. The interest of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in such a permanent relationship was presented to you in JCSM 643-68, dated 31 October 1968, subject, "Strategic Importance of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (U)." In that paper it was pointed out that a permanent US-TTPI relationship would contribute to US ability to monitor and control the sea and air space of the Pacific Ocean area and counter communist strength in the forward Asian-Pacific regions. Failure or delay in restoring the atoll to habitable condition could disaffect the natives involved, further complicating US difficulties in moving the TTPI into the desired permanent relationship.

GROUP - 4
Downgraded at 3 year
intervals; declassified
after 12 years

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3. (U) I consider the action proposed by the Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense (ISA) to be in the best interest of the United States.



EARLE G. WHEELER
Chairman
Joint Chiefs of Staff

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