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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Old Executive Office Building

Room 361

Washington, D.C. 20506

September 17, 1974

Honorable F. Edward Hebert
Chairman, Armed Services Committee
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing to express my strong support for the Department of Defense request for funding of the initial phase of radiological cleanup of Eniwetok Atoll in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands which appears in the military construction budget request for fiscal year 1975. (H.R. 16136). These funds amounting to four million dollars are needed to fulfill a promise made to the people of Micronesia by the United States Government in 1972 that Eniwetok would be restored to its pre-nuclear testing condition and made fit for rehabilitation as quickly as the necessary radiological surveys, removal of radioactive debris, replanting of island flora and construction of housing units for the atoll's former inhabitants could be effected.

As you know, Mr. Chairman, the United States Government is currently conducting future status negotiations with representatives of the peoples of the Trust Territory. The negotiations are now in the critical final stages and if the United States were to fail to make good on its obligation to rehabilitate Eniwetok as rapidly as possible it could place us in a most awkward position. It is for compelling reasons in terms of our own national interest that I am urging your support of the Eniwetok funding when the House-Senate conference committee convenes to discuss the military construction authorization bill in the near future. Your further assistance in gaining approval of the authorization from the full membership of the House would also be most sincerely appreciated. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Franklin Hayden Williams
Franklin Hayden Williams
U.S. Ambassador

Micronesian Status Negotiations

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