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Brem - The latest on this is:

- ① George Christian agrees with WH announcement, if President approve
- ② Chuck Johnson is in process of preparing a complete memo to ^{David} for your signature. 13
August 2, 1968
- ③ George C. strongly suggests any memo to Pres be also sent (in copy) to George at Austin and to Jim Jones at the Ranch.

announced 8/12

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Return of the Bikini People

Attached is a classified memorandum from Secretary Udall transmitting an unclassified memorandum urging that you announce a governmental decision that the people of Bikini can now be safely relocated ^{to} on their home island. The Secretary also proposes a draft White House announcement for this purpose and draft memoranda for your signature to the Secretary of Defense, the AEC and the BoB directing them to carry out the resettlement.

*Low S.
8/2/68*

Secretary Udall's recommendation is strongly endorsed by the Secretaries of Defense and State and ^{was} also concurred in by Walt Rostow before he went on leave. Although the number of people involved is small, there is great interest in this matter at the United Nations and out in the Trust Territory itself. 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.

Those who have reviewed this matter feel that a White House announcement would give much greater visibility to this symbolic act of peace, and it is anticipated that there will be a generally favorable reaction to the announcement in free Asia and in all the LDCs.

If you approve a White House announcement, the materials are ready for release at the ranch. Questions and answers and maps have been provided the press ^{Office} ~~and~~ and a member of the NSC staff and Mr. Milner, Deputy Director of the Office of Territories ^{Interior Department} ~~in Interior~~, are available to assist in briefing the White House press corps if this is thought desirable.

Bromley Smith

Enclosure

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