

April 21, 1969

Memorandum

To : Army Commanding Officer, Kwajalein Missile Range
Thru High Commissioner, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands

From : Congressman A. Aji Balos

Subject : Six hundred sixty nine (669) Mid-Corridor people are awaiting sixty (60) days decision from the Army and the Trust Territory Government.

The official record of the Ebeye Municipal Government shows that there are 1,470 Mid-Corridor people on legal and rights in the Mid-Corridor islands. Only one hundred ninety eight (198) are receiving compensation from the Trust Territory Government. Three hundred forty two (42) are employed by Global, Trust Territory, and private companies. Six hundred sixty nine (669) Mid-Corridor people are requesting the Army and the Trust Territory Government to please allow them to return to their islands in the Corridor because they have no ways of making income on Ebeye. The other two hundred sixty one (261) Mid-Corridor people have no jobs and have no ways of making income either, but they have not yet made their decision to go back to their islands. They are continuing to live parasitically with their relatives and their friends.

Some employees have signed to return their families to their islands in the Corridor due to the fact that they are not support them. The amount of the income they're receiving is inadequate to challenge the high standard of living on Ebeye.

The 669 Mid-Corridor people are mainly consisting of old people who cannot do any kind of work physically, students who have no jobs yet because they're still attending school, and of course the young children who are still legally under the age of employment. These are the ones who have experienced the long suffering life on Ebeye. These are the ones who would like to request the Army and the Trust Territory Government to please allow them to return to their islands because of the hardship they are encountering through out these years. Frankly our Marshallese custom helps them to survive. They depend on their relatives and their friends for food, clothing, and other needs. Obviously, if their relatives and friends would stop from supporting them, then they would be no difference from a "war prisoner" who wears a torn piece of cloth and dies gradually from starvation. To my knowledge, United States Government is very generous. Its won't even allow its "people" to suffer this way especially in time of peace.

The leaders of each family of the 669 Mid-Corridor people have signed to return to their islands in the area which the Army have designated as a restricted and a dangerous area on the account of Missile Operation conducting on Kwajalein. To tell the truth, this is not a political move, nor is it a "campaigning promise". Let's face the truth and not argue and blame each other on this request of the Mid-Corridor people to return to their islands. This is exactly why they are asking the Army and the Trust Territory Government to please allow them to return to their islands. They would like to go back to their islands to settle and to live a free and a peaceful life without bothering the Army and the Trust Territory Government.

I attached herewith a copy of the proposals by the Mid-Corridor people. They would like to urge the Army and the Trust Territory Government to take action on their made proposals within sixty days (60) after the date of submitting them. Their position is clearly stated that they are very willing to cooperate, but they can't continue to live

the long suffering life on Ebeye. Here again they would like to inform the Army and the Trust Territory Government that they will be returning to their islands, either with or without permission, after the sixty (60) days of submitting their requests and awaiting for the decision.

cc:

Distad Rep Ebeye
Distad Marshalls
Congress of Micronesia
Department of Interior
Department of Defense
President of the United States
UN Trusteeship Council
Senator Kennedy
Representative Patsy Mink
Senator McCarthy

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REQUESTS PROPOSED BY THE MID-CORRIDOR PEOPLE TO BE PRESENTED TO THE ARMY AND THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT TO BE ANSWERED WITHIN SIXTY (60) DAYS AFTER THE SUBMITTING DATE

1. Request the Army and the Trust Territory Government to provide transportation and return the Mid-Corridor people to their islands.
2. Request the Army and the Trust Territory Government to provide housing and shelter on each of the 14 islands in which the Mid-Corridor people will return to settle.
3. Request the Army and the Trust Territory Government to rehabilitate the 14 islands.
4. Request the Army and the Trust Territory Government to help support the Mid-Corridor people for food and other needed supplies until the islands will be recover from the last typhoon damage, if the people will return to their islands in the near future.

Signed:

/s/ Lojelan Kabua
Lojelan Kabua

/s/ Albert Loak
Albert Loak

/s/ Jally Bolkein
Jally Bolkein

/s/ Aisa Keadrik
Aisa Keadrik, Councilman

/s/ Tojira Lemae
Tojira Lemae, Councilman

/s/ Andrija Joo
Andrija Joo, Marshal of Police

/s/ Markat Dario
Markat Dario, Leader of the people

/s/ Billy Malole
Billy Malole, Leader of the people

Ataji Balos
Congressman Ataji Balos

Pisa Matale
Pisa Matale, Leader of the people

Atidrik Maise
Atidrik Maise, Leader of the people

/s/ *Clement Korok*
Clement Korok, Leader of the people

Mukia Balde
Mukia Balde, Leader of the people

Alice Mavin
Alice Mavin, Leader of the people

Laitan Dain
Laitan Dain, Leader of the people

Aransen Malole
Aransen Malole, Leader of the people

On-envelope: ⁺ Congressman Ataji Balos
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Marshall Islands 96970