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World Council of Churches Comments on Marshallese/English reports

MIHS has too many students and not enough teachers

MAJURO, 13 Sept. — Heavy transfers from other schools, teacher shortage and not enough classrooms is making the Marshall Islands Public High School feel the crunch this new school year, according to MIHS Principal Tony Jentil.

Enrollment for this term

is over 650, the school's capacity of 600. Jentil said he won't know the exact figure of enrollment until two weeks from now because of the many transfer students from other high schools. Registration for transfer students continues for another week.

Jentil said he doesn't know why the heavy transfers to MIHS. "It may be that they can't pay for tuitions at other schools or for some other reasons," he said.

Whereas there were 30 students per classroom in previous years, this term

Continued page 4

MAJURO, 13 Sept. — *Elon jen jonan transfer students ak dri jikul kel jen jikul ko jet rekoman an obrak MIHS ilo term in jikul in, ekkar non MIHS Principal Tony Jentil.*

Ejjab men in wot ak etal im jabwe room in jikul iben an jabwe dri kake, Jentil ear ba.

School year in eka' ilo MIHS ewar elon lok jen 650 dri jikul ro. Jonon eo ilon tata emaron di lun ej 600 dri jikul, Jentil ear ba. Jentil ear ba ej min aikkar oran dri jikul nae ruu week jen kio kin wot aer ebok dri jikul jen jikul ko jet.

Late page 4



58.7% Act

The total votes casted so far is 5,923. 3,474 Act and 2,449 Jab. 58.7% Act. The Marshallese students outside the Marshalls voted 116 Act and 52 Jab. Ujae voted 80 Act and 8 Jab.

Mason Altiery, RepMar press secretary says a government release will be out later today on the plebiscite results.

Coalition meets to discuss options

MAJURO, 13 Sept. — Coalition party leaders are going to meet today to formulate their plans regarding the Compact of Free Association, according to Wotje Senator Litokwa Tomeing.

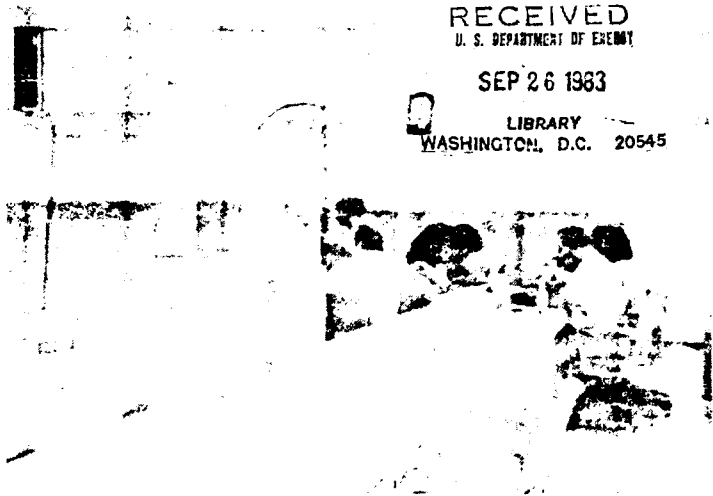
Tomeing said the Coalition leaders including Kwajalein leaders who are now on Majuro, will meet today to talk on their plans. He said he can't make any comment until after their meeting.

But he said most likely they will discuss what options is there if the Compact wins.

MAJURO, 13 Sept. — Dri tel ro an Coalition Party eo rainin renaj kwelok im konono kin plan ko aer iktjen Compact in Free Association eo, ekkar non Wotje Senator Litokwa Tomeing.

Tomeing ear kwalok ke emwij an muttok dri tel ro an Kwajalein non Majuro non aer jijet iben dron im konono kin ta ko renaj kommoni kin Compact eo elane ewin.

Ijoke Tomeing ear ba ej-jab maron kwalok jabdre-wot-mae ien elkin aer konono iben dron.



Boxes are still being counted.

Delegation report on Marshalls trip

Report of the World Council of Churches Delegation to the Marshall Islands May 20 to June 4, 1983

Team Members

- Kara L. Cole, Chairperson: Administrative Secretary of the Friends United Meeting and member, Board of Governors, National Council of the Churches of Christ, USA
- Thomas B. Cochran, Ph.D.: Nuclear Physicist serving as a Senior Staff Scientist for the Natural Resources Defense Council, Washington, D.C.
- Bateke Nabetari: General Secretary of the Pacific Conference of Churches
- B. David Williams, Jr.: Associate Director for Peace Issues, National Council of Churches of Christ, USA, until recently Coordinator of the Church and Society Program, Pacific Conference of Churches

Introduction

1. Introduction
Continuing concern expressed by the Pacific churches, through the Pacific Conference of Churches, plus requests from the Marshall Islands caused the WCC to consider sending this

small delegation. A final decision was made in consultation with leaders of the United Church of Christ in the Marshalls and the Roman Catholic Church there. The team was housed and its basic local itinerary suggested

Continued page 6

Less than 40% left to count

As of early Monday morning approval of the Compact was leading by 58%. So far a total of 3,278 ballots were cast in favor of the Compact, while a total of 2,389 ballots were cast against the Compact.

Roughly 60% of the total vote has been counted. The major voting categories yet to be counted are the plebiscite day registrations and absentee votes. These roughly 3,500 votes take a long time to tabulate since each affidavit must individually be checked against the national registration list before the actual counting can begin.

Continued page 3

MAJURO, 12 Sept. — Ro rej kweppene Compact eo rej le iman kin 58%, ilo rainin, Monday. Einwot ba jonon in 3,278 ballot rar rie Compact eo im 2,389 ballot rar nae Compact eo.

Jonon in 60% in aolepen vote emwij bwine. Men eo kio renaj jino bwini ej vote ko an ro rar register ilo ran in vote eo kab absentee vote ko. Jonon in 3,500 ej janin bwinbwin im enaj

rumij aer etale einwot ke rej aikuij etale et ko etan ro rar vote.

Ilo Majuro, ewor 2,368 absentee ak ro rar register im vote ilo ran in vote eo.

Ilo Ebeye, ewor jonin 555 absentee ak ro rar register im vote ilo ran in vote eo. Ilo KMR, ewor 403 absentee voters.

Koba iben ro rej jokwe ilkin Majul, ewor 3,500.

Late page 3

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Editorial Act Together

The split between the two parties is not as great as many think. Both are concerned with what is best for the Marshall Islands. They only differ in the method.

Development of the Marshall Islands should be the main concern of everyone living here. Don't rely on the government, to give you everything. Work towards

Take a close look around you, see all the cans on the street. Pick one up and put it in a trash bin. If every one does this there will be less trash, and if people will stop littering, that is one step towards making Majuro and the Marshall Islands a better place to live. The broken down cars and trucks. They also need to be taken care of. But, just how much landfill can be done? Recycling could be the answer.

Which is more important - color TV and video tapes or 24-hour water. If more people would spend money up in the available water from the government. This is an example of helping the government out. How many times do you have to wait for the water hour to fill up your containers. Why not make use of your own roof. Many people have already done so, but nowhere near a majority.

Take a look at what the government is doing for you. They have started a new hospital construction in Delap. They are working on outer island dispensaries. It is up to you to use these facilities, before it is too late, and that costly medical referral to Hawaii. Don't put off going to the hospital if something is wrong. Many have, some of whom are not around anymore.

Above all, take the time to do those little things that will make the Marshall Islands a better place to live.



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Letter: Jemen Ei emon

Dear Editor:

Elap ao buromoj kin ao bokien in emon im kennan kin jet men ko emuj air deddik im tobrak ilo ien ko re motlok.

Ilo week eo ej jomlok ear itok juon delegation, im ro uan delegation in eju ro ian iroj ro an Ailinglaplap im bar jet im eja dri Ailinglaplap wot. Itok in an iroj rein im likao rein, rar boktok jet melele ko elap air emon iba im iben ro rej tomak ilo "Vote Jab".

Mr. Editor, men eo tijin kennan kake kin, non kemeleik juon ian likao rein. Ear jab konnan wot kin nana ko an Compact eo wot an ear baremwot ba ke Jemen Ei eo an Ailinglaplap ebaremwot nana im ejab ho lomen.

Nana eo juon ilo Jemen Ei in, kin an ejelok an iroj vote.

Einwot ke na eo iar president non ConCon eo, inaj uk likao in ilo etan ro ian ConCon eo ilo wot tu-kadu-in. Kin ar lo bwe ien otemjej iroj ro rej einwot dri kabilik non armij ro im kien eo air ilo jabrewot meienaj jelet armij ro im bwidje ko, im bar jabrewot men rej walok ilo Ailinglaplap.

Ta kwoj jab melele ke? Ta kwoj konan likit iroj ro am ilo jeral ko an kien eo an einwot jomakoko ro an ke? Ta kwoj konan bwe iroj ro am ren komone ak ilo ijo rejab konan komok ak ilok ijo rejab konan likit ie tok ke?

Likao in ej baremwot ba bwe ro rar eik Jemen Ei in, rar konnan wot komone ilo juon ien eo ekadu bwe en ejelok ainikien ro jet im rej bde ilo Ebeye im ro ilo Majuro.

Jemen Ei in ar eo bok ruo (2) years ko non an ConCon eo arro lamlame im lelok non Council eo an Ailinglaplap eja ilo tore eo wot bwe en etale im ko-weppane. Council ear etale in ilo ke Jemen Ei in en etal wot im ro wannanlok wot im ko-weppane kin juon resolution einwot ke ilo lore in iar jeral iben Council eo ilo chair eo an Magistrate.

Kwon jela base ro uan ConCon eo im Council eo ekelet in armij ro ilo Ailinglaplap, ij ConCon eo ear eik Jemen Ei eo im Council eo ear ko-weppane ie.

Likao in ej bar ba bwe kakkobaba ko rar itok jen Ebeye in Majuro rar jab dreion ilo Jemen Ei in.

Ilo mol ewor jet rar dreion, im bar ilo mol, jet rar jab dreion.

ConCon eo ear etale im lo bwe jet ian men kein remon im jet rejab emon.

Ta likao in ejab ememej rules in bebe ke? Ta konan eo an bwe ren dreion jekdron ta ak kinke jen Ebeye in Majuro ke?

Ejab unin an Ailinglaplap - Ebeye im Majuro, ak emaron jet ien, ak ejab aolep ien.

M.S.
Ailinglaplap
31, August, 1983

OPINION

The Journal welcomes letters and commentaries from writers of all viewpoints. The opinions of such writers are their own, and not necessarily those of the Journal. While the Journal welcomes letters, we urge writers to keep them short. Invariably, typed or printed, short letters will get you more attention and have more effect than a long winded one. We reserve the right to edit letters which are too long.

Letter: Independence possible for Marshall Islands

August 17, 1983
Dear Editor:

In his analysis of the Compact of Free Association, Henry Schwalenberg states that "since the Trusteeship can not end without U.S. permission it is doubtful that the U.S. would allow the Marshalls to become independent without much the same military authority it has" with the Compact.

Whether or not independence is wanted for the Marshall Islands is something only Marshallese can decide. Yet colonial powers and their agents in the Pacific spend much of their time saying how impossible it is for the different island groups to become independent.

Ten years ago, who would have thought the Republic of Vanuatu (formerly the New Hebrides) would be independent today? The French certainly didn't give Vanuatu "permission" to become independent. In fact, the French worked hard to slow Vanuatu's drive for independence, including supporting an armed rebellion that threatened to disrupt the scheduled July 1980 date for independence. But the Vanuatu government withstood the pressures and is now independent.

More importantly, 3 years after independence, Vanuatu still receives the majority of its economic aid from its two former colonial rulers - France and Britain, even though prior to independence France threatened to withdraw its economic aid. Economic disasters has not come to Vanuatu, and the colonial powers did not cut them off. The water runs 24

hours a day, the electricity works, the government functions, Vanuatu is a United Nations member and has its own currency.

Vanuatu in the early 1970's was in a dependent relationship similar to that of the Marshalls". France did not support independence for Vanuatu because it feared the independence "fever" would spread to its other colonies: Tahiti (its nuclear test site) and New Caledonia (where a major portion of the world's nickel is).


But Vanuatu's people set their goal on independence in 1980, and were successful because they believed that only by ending colonial rule would they be truly free to govern their own lives and make decisions to improve their situation.

"The United States will always say that the Marshalls "cannot" have independence or that the Marshalls are not economically "ready" for independence because the U.S. has a self-interest in keeping the Marshall Islands under its military control. The question is, of course, who defines when a country is "ready"?

In international politics it is the determination of people to struggle for a goal, to identify alternative sources of funding that exist throughout the world, and to develop support of other nations for their desired political status that determines when a country is "ready." Pacific colonial history suggests that independence is there for those that want it.

Sincerely,
Kalama Akamine

Advertising Pays



Tide Table

Day	Time	Height	Day	Time	Height	Day	Time	Height			
12	0104	1.1	0.3	15	0415	2.6	0.6	18	0221	4.5	1.4
M	0104	4.2	1.4	16	0927	3.0	0.7	19	0759	1.7	0.5
	1306	1.3	0.7		1458	2.7	0.6		1859	4.3	1.3
	1427	4.9	1.5		2325	3.6	1.2		2040	1.9	0.6
13	0143	1.7	0.5	16	0739	4.5	0.8	19	1251	4.9	1.5
Tu	0138	4.1	1.7	F	1355	2.2	1.0	M	0401	2.4	0.4
	1511	1.4	0.5		1844	2.7	0.6		2126	4.5	1.4
	0005	4.5	1.4						2110	1.5	0.5
14	0231	2.2	0.7	17	0131	4.1	1.7	20	0424	5.0	1.5
W	0810	3.8	1.1	Sa	0832	2.1	0.6	Tu	0445	1.0	0.3
	1405	2.2	0.7		1432	3.6	1.1		1944	4.8	1.5
	2058	4.1	1.7		2003	2.3	0.7		2328	1.1	0.3

*Brought to you courtesy of the Sun and the Moon.

Voting Results

From page 1

In Majuro there are 2,368 absentee or first day registration voters.

Ebeye has 555 absentee and first day voters. KMR has 403 absentee voters.

Plus the Postal registration makes the count roughly 3,500.

Jan page 1

Polling place	Yes	No
Majuro (1048 yes, 270 no)		
Eolab	94	30
Jeirok	111	16
Lobat	48	18
Lumar	52	23
Woja	38	8
RongRong	8	9
Ajeltaken	66	13
Jenrok	25	37
Rita	187	70
Aenkan	5	1
Uliga	52	19
Delap	362	26
Rairok (contested and unresolved)		

Registration affidavit not enclosed in the ballot box.

Pepa in kamol etan armij rar jako ilo ballot box eo.		
Mejit (118 yes, 17 no)		
Mejit	118	17
Utirik (101 yes, 40 no)		
Utirik	101	40
Ailuk (119 yes, 31 no)		
Aen-ion	25	19
Jitak	39	6
Jitto	32	4
Aen-rok	23	2
Likiap (105 yes, 33 no)		
Rakto	26	8
Jebal/Melan	28	17
Plantation	51	8
Liklal (contested and unresolved)		

Ballots cast did not equal on the first count the number of people who voted.

Jonon ballot eo eokta jen jonon armij eo car vote.

Wotje (46 yes, 139 no)		
Wornej	10	52
Wotje	36	87
Aur (113 yes, 40 no)		
Aur	61	21
Tobal	52	19
Maloelap (121 yes, 93 no)		
Wollet	11	17
Jang	3	18
Tarawa	12	20
Kaven	55	17
Airok	40	21
Arno (296 yes, 112 no)		
Ajeltokrok	59	47
Rearlaplap	84	44
Jabonwor	49	9
Kebjeltak	104	12
Jaluit (121 yes, 273 no)		
Jitoken	4	40
Imiej	9	31
Mejjac	7	4
Mejnrok	16	33
Jaluit	30	47
Jabor	43	54
Pinglep	2	20
Mejatto	5	14
Imroj	5	30
Kwajalein (168 yes, 527 no)		
Santo	8	42
Ebadon/Arbwe	0	23
Carlos	0	24
Ebeye	160	438
Enebuoj (contested and unresolved)		

Regular voters enclosed their ballots in envelopes for absentee voters.

Dri vote ro rar drori ballot ko aer ilo nien absentee vote ko.
Enewetak (100 yes, 33 no)
Enewetak 68 25

Medren	24	5
Jebtan	8	3
Ujelang (waiting for ballot box to arrive)		
Mili (56 yes, 153 no)		
Mili	28	60
Nalta	4	27
Takewa	12	23
Enejet	6	25
Lukonwor	6	18
Kili (39 yes, 210 no)		
Kili	12	191
Ejit	27	19
Namorik (155 yes, 52 no)		
Namorik	155	52
Ailinglaplap (250 yes, 130 no)		
Enebin	32	53
Airok	80	17
Woja	50	32
Aenkan	27	5
Boran-Ailin	61	23
Jabat (17 yes, 2 no)		
Jabat	17	2
Ebon (39 yes, 161 no)		
Ebon	21	88
Toka	18	73
Lib (21 yes, 14 no)		
Lib	21	14
Namu (136 yes, 0 no)		
Majkin	64	0
Mae	38	0
Loen	34	0
Namu (contested and unresolved)		

Ballots were cut into two, separating the two parts.

Ballot ko rar mwijiti lukier im kejnolok motto ko ruo.

Cont. pg. 5/Late pg. 5

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The SUN HOTEL as viewed from the ocean side.

Sun Hotel to open in October

MAJURO, 13 Sept. — The 35-room Sun Hotel, Majuro's newest hotel, is scheduled to open sometime in October, according to a hotel spokesman. The will be five suite rooms. Minori Kensetu Company Limited of Japan is constructing the new hotel. Teruo Ito is the Hotel owner.

MIHS

See page 1

Jetnil ej kwalok bwelen unin an lab an lon transfer ej kinke elon problem kin money non kolla ilo school ko jet. Ear ba eijab lukkun jela win ko bwe en lab an itok dri jikul (transfer) rein non MIHS.


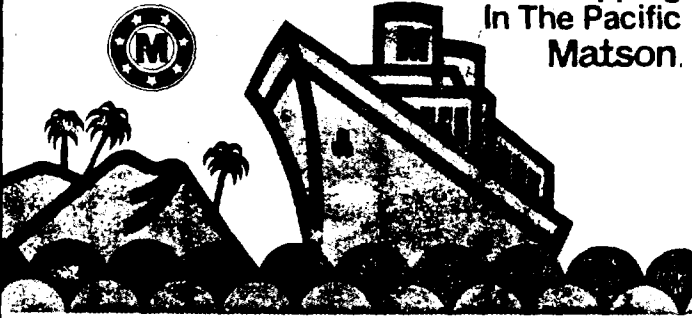
Kio ewor elon lok jen 30 dri jikul non juon classroom. Mokka kin jonon in 30 wot. Meran ekaman an jabwe jikin jiket non dri school ro.

Kin wot wawin in, erro vice principal eo Peter Oliver raikuij bok jet aer kilaj in katakin. Ear kwalok ke ear ejelok dri kaki kel ear ilok non MIHS ilo yio in ekal. Ear bar kwalok ke MIHS enaj aikuij juon counselor.

Kin an Nitijela kar jab kemoj money non dorm eo an ledrik ro, emwij an kilok drom in im ejako an ledrik jokwe ie, Jetnil ear ba. Ajiri rein renaj jokwe iben ro nukier ak ro reinono in kadrelon er.

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ISLANDER	175	11/17	11/28	12/1
ISLANDER	176	12/15	12/26	12/29

WEST COAST SHIPS CONNECT WITH ISLANDER AT HONOLULU.

MIHS

From page 1

there are over 30 students to a classroom. And there are not enough chairs in the classroom, he said.

Jetnil said because of the teacher shortage, he and the vice principal Peter Oliver, will have to teach.

He said there are no new teachers for MIHS this school year to replace the three vacant positions. The school will also need another counselor, he said.

Because Nitijela did not appropriate money to fix the present girl's dormitory, the dorm has been closed for this school year. There are no boarding students this year. These former boarding students will have to live with relatives or interested people, Jetnil said.



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DIABETES:

Have you heard about this word-Diabetes? If you have not heard this word, let me tell you a little about diabetes so that you can understand what it means and how it happens. Nowadays in our beloved Republic, most of the government employees have Diabetes. Which means they are DIABETIC. WHY - Because of what they eat; some People don't really care what they eat. Food is very important in the management of diabetes, so let's think about food and digestion. We take some food, chew it in our mouth, and then swallow it. The food goes down to where it is digested. Digested means to break up into small pieces which go into your stomach and further down to your small intestines. Food has 3 substances: Fats, Proteins, Carbohydrates. Different Foods contain different amounts of some or all of these. When foods containing carbohydrates are eaten, the carbohydrate is digested to sugar. The blood goes around the body carrying the sugar with it to all parts of the body. The body is made of tiny pieces called cells, and each of these body cells needs the sugar from the

blood so that the cell can work properly. The cells in the muscles use the sugar to produce energy so our body can work properly and energetically. It's very important that our cells get sugar they need, but the sugar is not able to go from the blood to the cells by itself. It needs help. The sugar helper is called Insulin. Insulin helps the sugar out of the blood and into the cells. Insulin is something which we make inside our body in a special part of the body called pancreas or sweet bread. Because the pancreas makes insulin we refer to it as the insulin factory. A Diabetic person has a lazy pancreas. Remember that insulin is very important for helping the sugar out of the blood. In diabetic people, sugar stays in the blood because there is not enough insulin to help the sugar out and into the cells.

There are some people whose pancreas makes enough insulin but still they are diabetic. These people are obese (fat). They have diabetes because they're too fat, and the fat gets in the way of insulin's work. The fat stops insulin from taking the blood where it is needed. These people also have too much sugar in their blood.

Now we know two reasons for diabetes: The first one is because they have a lazy pancreas which does not make enough insulin; the second is because they are too fat which gets in the way of insulin to stop it from working. Too much sugar in the blood means danger. Remember you are what you eat.

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Jenks appointed District Engineer

News Release

US Army Corps of Engineers Colonel Michael M. Jenks has been appointed as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Honolulu District Engineer and also as the Deputy Division Engineer of the Corp's Pacific Ocean Division, effective September 6.

Colonel Jenks succeeds Colonel Alfred J. Thiede, who had been the District Engineer since September 1982. Colonel Thiede has been appointed as Special Assistant to Brig. Gen. Robert M. Bunker, Pacific Ocean Division Engineer.

Colonel Jenks was Deputy District Engineer for the Corps at Norfolk, Va., before reporting to the Pacific Ocean Division headquarters at Fort Shafter. Prior to the Norfolk District assignment, he served as the Staff Engineer for the U.S. Army Western Command at Fort Shafter for two years.

His other major duty assignments include the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the

Army for Civil Works (1975-78), the Alaska Engineer District (1968-71), two tours in the Republic of Korea (1963 and 1972), and a tour in Republic of Vietnam.

In his new position as Honolulu District Engineer, Colonel Jenks will be responsible for all Corps of Engineers civil works activities in the State of Hawaii, the territories of American Samoa and Guam, the

Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, and the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands.

He is also serving as deputy division engineer of the Pacific Ocean Division, which is responsible for design, engineering, construction and real estate activities for the Army and Air Force in Hawaii; for the Army, Navy and Air Force in Japan, Korea, and

Kwajalein; and for the Government of the Trust Territory in the Marshall Islands.

Colonel Jenks was born in Arkansas. He is married to the former Carol Brown of Southern California. They have two children, a daughter, Michelle, 14, and a son, Robert, 7. The family will reside in government quarters at Fort Shafter during their Hawaii tour.

Results

From pg. 3/Jen pg. 3

- Wotho (30 yes, 5 no)
- Wotho 30 5
- Lae (72 yes, 9 no)
- Lae 72 9
- Rongelap (7 yes, 45 no)
- Rongelap 2 13
- Jabwan 3 10
- Rongelap 2 22
- Ujae (??? yes, ??? no)
- Ujae Waiting for
- Jabonwor ballot box
- to arrive

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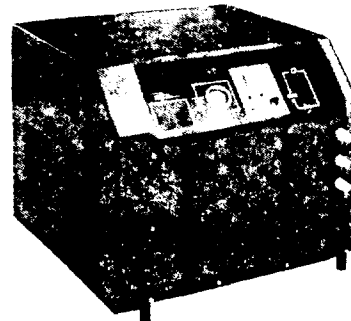
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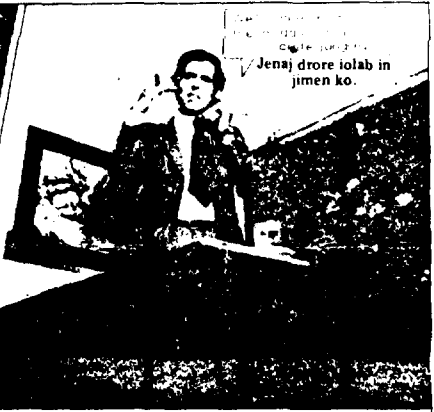
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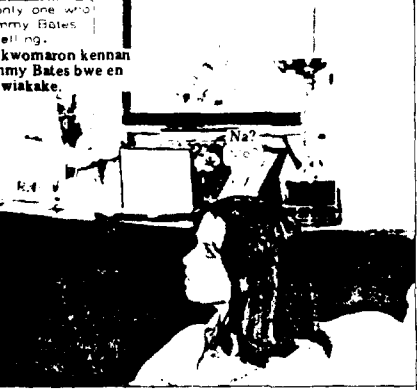
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Introduction

From page 1

by a local ecumenical planning committee comprised of leaders from the United Church and the Catholic Church.

The purposes of the visit were: (i) to assess the residual radiation problem as an environmental and health hazard; (ii) to study the social and human cost of the US military presence; (iii) to consult with the churches of the Marshalls regarding these questions; and (iv) to explore with the churches, in the context of the WCC's standing concerns for peace and disarmament, long-term strategies for mobilizing the commitment of the churches

around the world on these issues.

It should be noted that while the team included an expert on radiation and its effects, it did not presume to take up a highly technical role. This was essentially a church visitation team sent as an expression of church concern, willing to listen to all persons and groups having significant messages about that situation. We saw our role to be interpretive, reflective, consultative, and directed towards a clearer, more helpful response on the part of the churches.

Among the categories of people we encountered were: people displaced from their land, groups that experienced high levels of radioactive fallout, people living in "temporary" homes or are affected because their land is continually used for US presence and missile testing, officials of the Marshall Islands Governments and other political leaders, church leaders, a lawyer, medical doctors, missionaries, an anthropologist, US officials and civilian employees at Kwajalein and American scientists from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories.

Radiation and Relation Questions

II. Radiation and Related Questions

In the 37 years since the atom bomb was first "dropped" on the Marshalls at Bikini, the lives of not only the natives from their homeland (Bani and Enewetok), or the groups irradiated, but the lives of all Marshallese have been radically altered. The effects of radiation pervade their existence far beyond the readily observable and reported health and environmental effects associated with the extensive US nuclear testing program in the Marshalls. Today, in the broad sense, "radiation" is a basic, pervading reality for all Marshallese people.

Indeed, a new culture, vocabulary and mythology have developed around the radiation question. Whenever there is a

Continued page 7

Chapter 24

I awoke the next morning with a hangover, but not the typical Webster dictionary definition of such a state, rather the Marshall Islands after-glow hangover. Music was more than Muzak. The local radio station was playing a slurred-down version of Scott Benjamin, announcing in an almost vicious monotone that the war in Chad had been almost liberated by the T-15s, but was suddenly froned on by the frogs. I had certain deadlines to meet and began filing reports as soon as my contact lenses were operable.

"TOBIAR BLAZE: SEIN AS CLEANSING BINIIT", "NEW COMPACT TO SOLVE PROBLEMS", and a few other upbeat articles requested by the CIA were on the agenda.

It was drawing close to compact time, and the island had taken on an almost Christmas-like or United Nations Day-like atmosphere. United Nations like? Perhaps the hangover was worse than I thought later.

Radiation and Relation Questions

From page 6

physical debility, a birth anomaly or other abnormality, the people tend to believe that such had not occurred before "The Bomb". Cases of fish poisoning, unusual plant disease, the demise of the highly valued arrowroot plant (a traditional staple), seem invariably to be attributed to radiation, even though this is contrary to scientific evidence. Myth or reality, these anxieties and fears are painfully real, and they are a consequence of the testing program.

The radiation question is a difficult one, even for scientists who have been working with it for many years. Many dedicated US scientists have been involved in an extensive effort over many years to assess and treat the effects of radiation exposure of Marshallese and to monitor the residual radioactivity contaminating many of the islands in the northern atolls. It would appear that they have performed with honesty, and in most cases -- particularly in recent years -- with a reasonable level of competence. Nevertheless, it is always possible to identify areas where more attention should have been focused. Two such areas which have become critically important are (i) the education of the Marshallese on the nature of radiation and its human and environmental effect and (ii) providing adequate medical care and compensation for victims of the atomic bomb test. Related to the first area the recent US Department of Energy (DOE) books on the radioactive contamination of Enewetok, Bikini, and the northern atolls have been almost totally ineffective, and in some instances, counterproductive in explaining the nature of radiation and the effects of the residual radioactive contamination on human health. These books have been ineffective even though written in Marshallese and English and clearly aimed at a lay audience. Most Marshallese simply cannot understand the text. Moreover, the presentation of the results in terms of the average risk of dying of cancer -- perhaps presented this way in an effort to simplify the issue -- tends to mask the variability of the data and its uncertainties, making the results misleading.

With regard to the second area, the US medical surveillance program conducted by Brookhaven National Laboratory under DOE contract is a narrowly focused research effort to identify the late effects of radiation in the most heavily exposed Marshallese people. The treatment by the US of radiation induced health effects and compensation for these effects have been largely but not totally limited to those effects which have been clearly identified by the surveillance program as being radiation induced, mainly, thyroid abnormalities among those most heavily exposed to the fallout from the Bravo test. Health effects that have not been statistically linked to radiation in the Marshallese population under study are generally not treated -- exceptions have been

made but generally these have not been in accord with Brookhaven's contract with DOE -- and the victims are not compensated. In effect, the burden of proof lies not with the US to demonstrate the disease is not radiation induced, but with the victim to demonstrate that it was.

The US Government -- and perhaps the United Nations -- should consider whether the medical surveillance program should be so narrowly defined; whether the people in the surveillance program who have been categorized as "unexposed controls" should be so categorized; and whether the level of compensation and the people who qualify for it are appropriately defined.

Nearly everyone with whom we spoke felt that the Marshall Islands has serious, unique health problems and inadequate care (the lack of health care facilities is obvious even to the casual observer); that all of the people should be given comprehensive health care regardless of whether they have been categorized as "exposed" or "unexposed"; that the new Marshall Islands Government does not have adequate capacity to do these; and that it is the responsibility of the US government not just to give funding, but to ensure by all reasonable means that such care is made available. Moreover, a Marshalls government-endorsed independent medical survey might be helpful in moving more decisively in this direction.

There is widespread distrust by Marshallese of US scientists involved in radiation monitoring and health surveillance programs. Among the Marshallese who are participants in the Brookhaven surveillance program some have even said, "the Marshallese are being used as 'guinea pigs'"; "and that the fallout from the 1954 Bravo test was not an accident." Unfortunately the scientists working today are forced to carry the baggage of mistakes and changes in policy accumulated over the past 37 years. We heard ulterior motives attributed to the DOE's educational efforts regarding residual radiation. Some charge that scientists are giving conflicting messages. These are strong, perhaps even paranoid statements. But though they may be difficult to accept they must be seen for their significance in the cynicism and frustration which they reflect.

The problem of the primary contaminated atolls, Bikini and Enewetok, is deeply troubling. A serious cleanup attempt is being made at Enewetok, at a reported expenditure of \$218 million. In the light of the drastic measures and unusual lifestyle required for resettlement, it is not yet clear if many of the people will choose to return. Bikini poses a more difficult case than Enewetok, and thus far the US Government has taken the position that cleanup would be too expensive. It would seem that a profound moral and legal question is posed here for the global community. Who is to decide upon such weighty matters of land abuse and restoration? While even a very imperfect cleanup at Bikini could cost several hundred million dollars, some Marshallese pointed out that the US Government is spending much more than that amount on just a few weapons such as the MX

missiles, now being tested at Kwajalein. At one meeting an articulate young man asked, "Why can the US do whatever it chooses?"

US Security Needs and Kwajalein Atoll

III. US Security Needs and Kwajalein Atoll

At a most basic level, this situation must be seen as one of the many tragic effects of the arms race. It was the US perception of its own security needs which was the driving force behind the testing program and now the way in which the new political arrangements are evolving. While the US would clearly like to restore and be free with the Pacific Islands Trust Territory, its current military requirements are having major impact upon the political, economic and social status of the new nation.

It is at the Kwajalein Atoll where we see the embodiment of this question. The Kwajalein people, most of them now living in crowded dismal conditions on 27 Ha. (67 acres) Ebeye Island, are seeking, thus far unsuccessfully, to attain a measure of restoration to their land, which is being used as part of the missile testing range. The determination of the Kwajalein people working through an organization known as the Kwajalein Atoll Corporation, is a remarkable story in itself. The Kwajalein people will without doubt play a key role in this continuing debate.

"The Lawyers"

IV. "The Lawyers"
Lawyers and the litigation to pursue health damage and land claims have become a significant, often troubling political factor. This, too, is a consequence of the weapons testing program. Are the people being exploited in new ways through the lawyers, even as they deal with older injustices? Is there an unfortunate "pull" towards money solutions, or compensation, rather than long-term restoration of the basic relationship between the people and their land and culture? Perhaps, but the lawyers apparently have brought these greatly disadvantaged people a new means of much-needed power, and it would be most unwise to jeopardize this by attacking their sensitive lawyer-client relationship.

The Church in the Marshalls

V. The Church in the Marshalls
The Church in the Marshall Islands has played and will apparently continue to play a nurturing and comforting role rather than one of advocacy. In this fragmented society the church is a relatively strong, self-reliant indigenous institution where people can come together in spite of their division. In communities where virtually all persons

belong to the church, and where virtually all members of the local government councils are church people, it is the custom to speak on political and economic matters through civic channels.

While we have regretted that a clear, official church statement has not come forward from the Marshalls on these concerns, many church people have spoken out, and we must trust Continued page 8

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The Church in the Marshalls

From page 7
The churches of the Marshalls to find their own appropriate official way of response. We were at all times made to feel that the concern represented by the visit was much needed and deeply appreciated.

The Marshallese people want the world to know what has happened to them. They want the whole Church to pray for them and to speak out on their behalf, for their health and welfare, their long-term security, their independence and integrity as a people.

Critical Issues to be addressed by the Ecumenical Movement and the International Community

VI. Critical Issues to be Addressed by the Ecumenical Movement and the International Community
1. While this report is openly critical of US policy and

practice in the Marshall Islands, we must point out that this situation is in a deep sense just a part of the wider problem of the global arms race. The alleviation of the difficulties of the Marshallese people will depend largely upon reducing the need for continued strategic weapons tests. Our response as a global church must be seen in relation to the biblical mandate for peace-making.

2. Ordinary people in the Marshall Islands consistently told us that the regional and world church must continue to make people more aware of what is happening there. The churches should continue to play a responsible role in strengthening the accountability of the United States and the United Nations for what is happening in the Pacific Island Trust Territory. We should continue to seek guidance from the churches of the Marshalls in fulfilling this role.

3. Long-term questions of political status are especially critical at this moment in history. Unresolved health, land and economic problems will tend to influence long-term political decisions. It is

important that there be a maximum of open public discussion on the proposed new political status. The churches, both within and outside the Marshalls, should seek to play a constructive role in this process, particularly in raising value questions.

4. In light of serious, unique health problems, a much higher level of health care is needed for the Marshall Islands, for the whole population, and on a continuing basis. Consultation is needed to determine potentially effective ways for promoting this.

5. Profound moral and legal questions are raised in the matter of the radiation-contaminated atolls. Who shall decide and upon what basis shall they or shall they not be "cleaned". It would seem appropriate for the churches to project such questions, even if final action would seem totally dependent upon US willingness to respond.

6. The Marshallese people will be living with the reality of ionizing radiation for a long time to come. Efforts at educating them about it are extremely important. Thus far, however, such efforts have not been effective. It appears that the level of trust for the US Department of Energy is so low that this educational task should be taken up by some other, more trusted group.

7. A related, but slightly different point than 6: We found that a serious lack of technical information exists in the Marshalls about the radiation problem. It would seem important that the US Government make an unreserved effort to supply and the Government of the Marshalls to serve as custodian for a basic library and file of technical reports and papers accessible to interested persons and groups.

8. In no way would we jeopardize the effectiveness of the lawyer seeking to bring a greater measure of justice of the Marshallese groups engaged in litigation against the US Government for health, environmental and other claims. At the same time, it might be helpful for the Government of the Marshalls to establish guidelines for the lawyers, in the interest of the Marshallese groups, including guidelines for lawyer's fees.


9. Since the sit-in demonstration last year at Kwajalein (called "Operation Homecoming" by the Marshallese), the Kwajalein Missile Range Base officials have taken an unnecessarily harsh line against the Marshallese community at Ebeye. We would hope that even though many of the basic, long-term questions have not been solved, the people, as the rightful owners of Kwajalein, will be treated with dignity and respect, that Base officials will give serious consideration to their complaints, and neither limit nor withhold essential services.

P.S. — A more detailed version along with a complete itinerary and some historical notes may be obtained from the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches (150, route de Ferney, Geneva, Switzerland), which organized the visit.

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