



TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS
 OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
 SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950

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CABLE ADDRESS
 NICOTT SAIPAN

The following is taken from a tape recording as made of a meeting held on Eniwetok, on May 20, 1972 at 10:30 A.M. Those in attendance were:

Peter T. Coleman	Deputy High Commissioner
Dwight Heine	Special Consultant to the HiCom
Ataji Balos	Congressman of Micronesia
Philip Chamberlain	Chief of Planning
Maynard Neas	Lands and Surveys
Joe Rotholz	Community Development Engineer
Joe Nakanishi	Supt. Controlled Maintenance
T. R. Mitchell	Micronesian Legal Services Corp., Saipan
Dennis Olsen	" " " " Majuro
Chips Barry	" " " " Majuro
Jon Anderson	Public Information Specialist
George Nakanishi	District Agriculturist, Majuro
Smith C.	Ujelang Magistrate
Hetes J.	Ujelang
Bryant S. Zebedy	Legislative Secretary, Marshall Is.
Roger Ray	USAEC
John Stewart	AEC
Stevens M. E.	DNA (Logistic Directorate, Wash. D. C.)
C. L. Growe	SAMTEC
Joe J. Farkas	MATSCO APO SF 96333
Thomas Turnbull	Gen. Electric Site Contractor
Lt. Col. Louis J. Circeo	DOD (DNA) Wash. D. C. 20305
Russell W. Walker	Majuro
Lt. Col. Earl W. Udick	SAMTEC

Peter T. Coleman This is our last day on Eniwetok since we leave tomorrow morning. We want to take advantage of the opportunity of having the representatives here from the different agencies who have been involved in the Eniwetok program. We want to use this meeting as an opportunity for the people of Ujelang to ask questions and also for our team to ask any questions that they might have. I leave the meeting open now for questions. Please remember that there are representatives present from agencies that have records and information that have not previously been available to the Trust Territory. This is an opportunity to establish communications with those agency representatives that are presently here. This is an opportunity for us to get information for the representatives of Eniwetok and their people as well as for ourselves in the Trust Territory. I therefore leave the meeting open now .

for anyone who would like to ask questions. This is an opportunity to ask any question that you might have on your mind. Now is the time to ask those questions while the gentlemen from the different agencies are available.

Russell Walker

I wonder, as we previously discussed during the trip, is there a possibility that a single individual could be appointed to disseminate all information from the numerous agencies involved? It would be much easier if we were able to deal with one individual who could act as a liaison for the 5 or 6 involved agencies. I offer that as a suggestion.

Peter T. Coleman

All right, we can discuss that. It's going to be difficult to select a single individual unless we work directly with Mr. Ray. These are different agencies but perhaps he could be our contact point. The Trust Territory contact point for information really is the Department of Interior. The Department of Interior then has its people contact the various agencies in Washington.

Roger Ray

Perhaps I could respond to that a little bit. There is right now no single agency that has a total comprehensive responsibility for the future activities here. But I am sure that we who have some connection with the Washington scene feel that it is a very necessary early step to be taken. I think that for the time being, it is appropriate to say that Peter T. Coleman is the central location and that for the moment he will have to suffer with the fact that he's got to deal with several agencies. I think that he appreciates that too. We are all very much interested in seeing a central coordinating effort made very quickly and we have talked earlier today about taking some steps in that direction. Please don't think that I am not perfectly willing to communicate with anybody in this room at anytime, but I think it would be a sort of diversion from a very much needed agency level coordination in Washington. Does that answer your question?

Russell Walker

I think that clarifies the situation. I think it would be much more satisfactory if for instance, that if Mr. Olsen could write to a single source for information. Am I to understand then that Mr. Coleman will be our source of contact for the various agencies?

Peter T. Coleman

Yes. That will still leave you free to communicate with anybody. I think for the coordination of information to our office we do have the opportunity to utilize the Department of Interior people to contact the various agencies in Washington at anytime.

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- Dennis Olsen Mr. Coleman, I am afraid that I don't understand what kind of arrangement is being made. In your first statement, you said that you are restricted to channel communications within the Department of Interior.
- Peter T. Coleman I am not restricted to that. I work through the Department of Interior. I have found that by working through them that more lines of communications to the rest of the agencies are available.
- Dennis Olsen Are you telling us in effect that all our correspondence inquiries should be channeled through the Department of Interior?
- Peter T. Coleman No, you don't have to, but we are available. You can channel your communications, as I said, directly to the agency representatives here. But Russell has suggested that you can have some sort of coordinating office for the solicitation of information. We will be glad to do that but that does not remove any independence that you might have for seeking information.
- Dennis Olsen *MICRONESIAN LEGAL SERVICES* I want to clarify this. Let's say that in a one week period, there is something very pressing that we want to know that only the AEC can answer. If we are to direct that inquiry to you would you in turn directly contact the AEC or would you go through normal channel?
- Peter T. Coleman *DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER* We would contact the AEC and also contact the Department of Interior to follow up. We would phone them and ask, "There was a request two days ago concerning the such and such commission, how are we doing on it".
- Dennis Olsen The reason that I am pressing this, since I liked the original tenor of Russell's question which was trying to remove some of the departmental hurdles that normally exist when there are so many people drawn from so many different agencies. Such hurdles are involved in a situation like this.
- Peter T. Coleman ~~We all may communicate directly with one another.~~
- Roger Ray Perhaps, I could just add, speaking for my own agency, that if you write to us, you will get an answer. I think our suggestion was that Pete perhaps will be in a better position to find the proper place to get the answer that you are looking for. I think I could almost speak for all of the Federal agencies concerned. If you do have a question that we're able to answer, you will get the answer directly no matter what channel you used.

Ishmael John This is not a question. What I want is that all of the words in this meeting be translated to my people, please.

Peter T. Coleman It shall be done.

Chips Barry I am going to pass around this clip board and ask all the people to put down their names, addresses, function and their title. This would be much easier than doing it orally. Would you please pass around. Then we can type it up and disseminate it generally among others. This then gives us an opportunity to give you a call.

Peter T. Coleman Let us pinpoint the representatives that we have here. This is Roger Ray of the AEC; Col. Earl Udick is in the Air Force. Col. Udick you are with SAMTEC.

Col. Earl Udick Yes, SAMTEC is with the Air Force. We have the contract for the island right now.

Peter T. Coleman Well you are out of Vandenburg Air Force. Col. Circeo you are with DOD. That's Department of Defense.

Col. Louis Circeo That's Department of Defense Nuclear Agency Engineering.

Peter T. Coleman Mr. Turnbull are you working with SAMTEC? You work on contract for General Electric?

Thomas Turnbull Yes, that is correct. We run the apartment that you have been living in. Mr. Farkas is the Site Manager.

Peter T. Coleman You folks have been doing a wonderful job. We wish to congratulate you.

Roger Ray Possibly we could pick up the film badges before we go any further. I would like to do that at this time. (Mr. Ray collected the badges.)

Peter T. Coleman For anyone who would like to get any information, these men are available. We will leave tomorrow and the plane will be in at 8:00 hopefully, we will have gathered all the desired information that any of the representatives might have been seeking.

Ted Mitchell Can anyone in this room or on this island give us additional information concerning the Marine Resource Laboratory.

Jon Anderson I was speaking the other day to Dr. Kemp. He is one of the visiting scientists.

Peter T. Coleman I have the gentleman's name that was given to me by the University of Hawaii. He was to be here at this time. He made himself available the other evening. I believe his name is Losey.

Lt. Circeo Losey is the name.

Peter T. Coleman Our own people from the Trust Territory team have been gathering information and we will be preparing a report. When that report is completed, we will give you folks a copy. They will be inventorying everything of importance on each island. I will be going to Honolulu and I will be in touch with Washington. This is for our team's information. We will get together later on. I just want you to be prepared to cover certain salient points that I need to mention on my trip with the understanding that final report will be coming here.

Ted Mitchell Lt. Udick, my question is directed to you. Is there any significant activity that is underway or that is planned in the foreseeable future that would in anyway effect the ultimate return of Eniwetok to the people.

Col. Earl Udick I will do my best to answer that question. We are in a peculiar situation you might say. We have to take care of the contract for any additional tenant type operation. That all goes through our contract. There are several programs going on. The programs that are going on are now established and if there are some other programs, such as the return of the islands that overshadows everything. All we can do is just hang in. We've got a job to do and we have been assigned to run the island and take care of the tenants as they come to us - to assist them in carrying out their projects. I can't honestly say that there is anything that would interfere with the return of the island. We are in NO position to say that.

Ted Mitchell We are aware of Marine Biological Laboratory and the Loran Station. Are there any additional programs?

Col. Earl Udick The PACE program and Col. Russel's program. That's classified. What is the number on that program? OD5125. Also the Scrips project and Senior Girl which is an in and out type operation. Senior Girl is also a classified project.

Ted Mitchell What is the number.

Col. Earl Udick We don't have an OD number on that.

Roger Ray

I think that clearly suggests that NO, they will not effect the return of the island to the people or the clean up program.

Col. Earl Udick

Basically, it goes down to this. When you first turn it off and the direction to do comes down to SAMTEC, through Air Force channels, then its all over with. Presently, we have the responsibility for supporting this operation. I am not trying to evade you but I am trying to put in proper light.

Ted Mitchell

Are you aware of any other projects that are some place in the planning stage that would involve the use of Eniwetok.

Col. Earl Udick

I guess that's the way to answer this one in an informal way. SAMTEC has no mission here.

Ted Mitchell

I directed this question to you because of my ignorance. I don't know to whom else it should be directed. If somebody else in this room can answer the question, I would appreciate their assistance.

Roger Ray

I would like to take a try at it. AEC has no mission here either. I think I am conversant with the way things are done here. With all due respect to the Col., I would like to say that he is no better position to answer that question than the cook downstairs is able to tell you how many meals he is going to serve tonight. He will serve all those people who will show up.

Ted Mitchell

I am sorry if I put you on the spot.

Col. Earl Udick

When I spoke to the General before I left, he said "all you can do is to go and assist in anyway that is possible." We appreciate this opportunity to make it very clear, and we go to Mr. Coleman's first remarks, that this communication and inter-agency cooperation is going to be extremely critical.

Roger Ray

Well, I think that you have been asking a question that we have been asking ourselves. As I have mentioned earlier, myself and others have concluded on this visit that the very first order of business to fill the gap that you have mentioned. There is not anyone in this room or probably one single person who can answer this question. We believe that there needs to be at the agency level, a coordinating group which will have the information and the authority to say YEA or NAY about any proposed new experiments or activities. I personally believe I am

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aware of everything that is planned to be done here that is officially sanctioned and that there is nothing that would interfere with your mission.

Col. Circeo

In the Ambassador's announcement, he mentioned 5 programs that were remaining here before DOD will be completed. The 5 programs have already been covered in this meeting. He also mentioned that these would in noway interfere with the rehabilitation or clean up of the Atoll. He also stated something to the effect that there would be minor residual rights and I personally do not know what he meant by that.

Col. Earl Udick

Myself and other SAMTEC people are here to help to see what exists and to determine what we can do in assisting your people - to attempt to tie all of these activities together. Col. Wexell from Kwajalein, SAMTEC, Major Blaire; Mr. Grove and Mr. Krosher is from San Antonio. He is the boatman. So if you have any problems concerning boats contact him; and Mr. Weir is contract man in charge of control. So please remember we are here to help you.

Peter T. Coleman

As we understand it all the programs other than the small ones like the Coast Guard Station and the Marine Biology Lab will remain but everything else will have phased out by December of 1973.

Chips Barry

It would be very helpful for myself and the others lawyers here if each of the Trust Territory and agency people would make a statement concerning what their roles will be in the rehabilitation process. What are they going to do with the informaton that they have gathered here when they go back to their offices? What will they do in one way or another that will affect these important plans? For instance, I know that Mr. Phil Chambe dain is with Headquarters Public Works, but beyond that I don't know what he is going to do that will have effect Eniwetokese. If each of you could make an explanation of what you propose to do would be very helpful.

Peter T. Coleman

First let me point out that the group that came in from headquarters will initially prepare a report and recommendation. Beyond that they will not do anything. With the recommendations we will set down with the representatives of Eniwetokese and agree upon a mutually agreed upon approach to carry out the future programs. The ultimate recommendations and programs worked out by the Eniwetokese and the Trust Territory Government will have to go to Washington. Eventually when the

islands are returned to the Eniwetok people, the islands will then also become the responsibility of the Trust Territory Government which will supply the overall services to the people. Now in regard to your question that you requested first, let me ask Phil if he has anything additional he would like to say.

Phil Chamberlain

The only thing that I would like to add is that we are here to see what is to be done, that's the primary reason for our being present on this trip. We are here to assist in anyway that is within our capability. Our capability is Master Planning. We have prepared master plan for 13 of the major islands in the Trust Territory. Those plans are based upon a combined efforts of the people and the planners so that a mutually agreed upon plan is developed. What approach will be taken here we don't know as yet. This will be mutually agreed upon in our later combined meetings.

Chips Barry

That's the type of information, I would like to hear from everybody.

Ishmael John
ENIWETOK COUNCILMAN

Who will make the master plan for Eniwetok.

Phil Chamberlain

This is of course has not been decided yet. That's why we are here. If the people of Eniwetok request our assistance then we will be very happy to assist.

Peter T. Coleman

If there's going to be any plan it will be the people's plan. Jon Anderson is of Public Information Office. Do you want to say something Jon.

Jon Anderson

My work here is to observe what is going on and I will be writing some articles and publishing some pictures about this trip and publishing something about the future plans as they evolve. We fulfill a reporting function in the Trust Territory because there is no private news agency that is capable of disseminating news simultaneously to all six districts.

Peter T. Coleman

Next, Mr. Maynard Neas of Lands and Surveys.

Maynard Neas

Lands and Surveys has the responsibility of the public land of the Trust Territory together with the survey of lands and the acquisition of sites for CIP. We also analyze leases and other land actions that are going on between the citizens of the Trust Territory and non citizens of the Trust Territory. We therefore enter into almost everything that takes place concerning land. As far as to what I am personally thinking of doing is first to keep in close contact with Mr. Coleman.

I would like to assist in this coordination and also to collect as much information as we can from photographs and other reports that are in existence so that we can build up a collection of basic information that will be of assistance in carrying out our mission.

Peter T. Coleman There had been publication which will assist us in determining the proper names of these islands. He has maps that will identify the 3 islands that are no longer there.

Maynard Neas Last year Lands and Surveys promoted and carried out a project which included one volume listing all of the islands of the Trust Territory. Dr. Bryan of the Bishop Mission prepared the booklet. Each island of the Trust Territory is given a number, the local name is given, the name given on the Japanese charts, the name given on the German charts and the Joint Task Force 7 code name and other military code names.

Peter T. Coleman I would like to introduce George Nakanishi who has been working in the Trust Territory for many years as an Agriculturist Expert. George would you have something to say.

George Nakanishi My job is to compile the necessary data to substantiate a planting program and see that some of the islands that were disturbed will be put back in to its former condition or better. We will be making plans for rehabilitation of the islands by planting coconuts on some of the islands that people will be living on and other subsistence crops such as breadfruit if it is possible. We will investigate means to make it little better than it was in the past by making a study of groundwater system and perhaps utilizing modern irrigation methods to make these things come to pass. Much of the land has been disturbed and soils mixed up because of construction. It's going to be a difficult task in some areas to get the plants to grow. However, we feel that this is possible and all of the lands that the people feel should be planted in coconuts will be worked on. A report will be submitted to the administration as to how extensive the program will be as soon as we find out exactly what islands are going to be involved in this study.

Peter T. Coleman Together with what George had said, we were talking yesterday about after the test the land will be restored and coconuts will be planted. If there is any planting at all, I would suggest that we're informed because the selection of seedlings will be very important on this type of place. Rather than pick the seedlings off the coconuts trees here, George might have in mind getting

some of the seedlings from the Southern islands so that we can have different types of coconuts and much more production.

Lt. Col. Circeo I have already talked to George about this.

Ishmael George Nakanishi is going to need people, and need to hire employees who will be planting the islands. I would suggest that he hire people from Eniwetok.

Peter T. Coleman Yes, if there are going to be any people needed, I think we're going to hire people from Eniwetok.

Ted Mitchell Does the Trust Territory have any claims for the use of any lands on Eniwetok Atoll.

Peter T. Coleman The Trust Territory has no thoughts or plans that are firmed up, we are concerned with the use of the land for the people.

Ted Mitchell What I would like to know is when do the thoughts become plans.

Peter T. Coleman You will be informed. No plans will be made without consulting the people.

Ted Mitchell We would like to know as soon as possible as to what lands the Trust Territory claims title. We need maps and descriptions. We would be very happy if the list has no entries.

Peter T. Coleman It will be done. Anyone else like to speak.

Chips Barry We would like to hear more from the Federal people while we are all together here.

Col. Udick We inherited this area from the old missile days. Cantons and Kwaj now are the missiles centers. We are here today to see that things are coordinated. We are here to help.

Lt. Col. Circeo From this point on, my primary concern is the PACE program. The proper execution of the program, the evaluation of the data and the environmental disposition of the test areas. Even if the Air Force is contracted to do it, it is our agency who is overall supervisor.

Peter T. Coleman Mr. Ray, would you introduce the rest of the gentlemen here?

Roger Ray

I guess it is clear what my agency is and our Nevada office will have the responsibility of acting for the Atomic Energy Commission in studying and making the best determination we can as to the radiation situation; recommending what action that must be taken for safety reasons before islands can be put to the uses that you recommend; and then participating ~~and~~ actually conducting the clean up action. Our partner in that will undoubtedly be the Department of Defense. I think Col. Stevens represents that part of the Department of Defense which most likely to have this coordinating function for the defense action. I will let him speak.

Col. Stevens

I am from headquarters Defense Nuclear Agency. I was sent here to observe the AEC survey that they made last week and to observe the trip that you have made this week to get a feeling of the order of magnitude of the job that may face the Department of Defense in the event that the Department of Defense is given the job of doing the clean up. That's about all that I can say at this time. John Stewart is from AEC office of Las Vegas. He has been here last week coordinating the survey. Do you have a word to say or question to ask?

John Stewart

No.

Chips Barry

I have one question anyway. Throughout our trip here, we have heard that you will be doing a more extensive survey. Can you tell us more about that? When it starts and when it ends.

Roger Ray

I'm not sure I can tell you when it will start but it will start the minute we are given the job and funds are made available. I might say that the survey that was just completed, we did without really having it funded and without having really any support for it and we took it from other programs we had ongoing because we recognize the urgency of doing an initial survey right now. We are fresh out of money at the moment and the minute we have the responsibility assigned, and I think it is going to happen very soon, I am confident that the responsibility will be accompanied by funds. My guess is that in about August or September, we will back out with the next phase of that survey. We would hope to complete it this calendar year.

Chips Barry

How many people is your survey going to involve and will there be written reports from the preliminary survey and from the final survey and if so will you send us copies of it?

Roger Ray

The survey probably will not involve very many more people than were involved in this one. It will involve more sophisticated equipment and a longer period of time. As to the results of the survey, yes, these will be made available certainly to the Trust Territory Government and probably to the public. The reports will be undoubtedly a part of such documentation as we and the Department of Defense will have to provide as to the environmental impact of the things that we intend to do. So all of these will be in the public record I am very sure. I think you should appreciate the results of the survey depends on extensive laboratory work after we come here and get samples. We will then return to laboratories in Nevada. The time there can be anywhere from a few weeks for the things we need of highest priority to many months for getting very detailed information. The information will be available as soon as we have it in a form that is understandable.

Peter T. Coleman

Are there any questions?

Chips Barry

I still have a couple of people to explain their functions. I am not clear as to Mr. Turnbull's function.

Mr. Turnbull

I am from the General Electric. Our responsibility is the administration of the contract. The contract is for the operation and maintenance of the SAMTEC facility on this island. We operate and maintain them. I specifically work in Program Management in Newport Beach in California. I have been assisting Mr. Farkas in setting up a new contract and additions to that contract.

Chips Barry

I just had one more question to ask. Mr. Ray, yesterday at Engebi, there was some discussion about the Beryllium problem. At the time it came up, I think you said that this is not an AEC problem but rather an Air Force problem. Will the AEC be dealing with the Beryllium problem?

Roger Ray

The Beryllium problem is not one in which the Atomic Energy Commission has any unique competence. There are AEC agencies that do have competence in evaluating the Beryllium contamination and if we're assigned that task I am sure that we would call upon them. The Department of Defense does have, mainly the Air Force very specifically, and NASA have a good deal of competence in this regard. I think this gain is a question that should be directed to Washington level. Whatever teams are developed to come out here and do the clean up will have the competence to deal with the Beryllium problem. The Beryllium problem is not a radiation problem, it is not

a nuclear contamination problem, it is chemical problem somewhat different from what we ordinarily deal with.

Lt. Col. Udick

Mr. Growe is the Program Manager for SAMTEC for our team in here. He is the man that you get in touch with. He deals with all the tenants in whatever category program we have.

Congressman Balos

My question is connected to the PACE Program here. I still don't understand and I want to find out why Eniwetok was selected or chosen for this program.

Lt. Col. Circeo

Eniwetok was chosen because Eniwetok has large craters. Bikini also has large craters. We are trying to understand what caused the crater size over here both in Eniwetok and Bikini. If you like, I could go into further detail. We have some materials and slides which I think are necessary for complete explanation and understanding. We essentially looked all over the world for sites. The first place we looked was the United States because it would be the cheapest place to conduct such a test. We essentially investigated this for two years with some of the top scientist and geologist in the United States and it was determined that it was necessary to come out here in order to conduct this program even though the cost would probably be ten times more than it would cost to conduct this program in the United States. Right now we have even larger explosive programs being conducted in the United States, in order to go along with the program out here. I can go into much more detail later on if you like. Last night the PACE people met with Chip and Ted for 2 hours. We went over the explanation of the program for them and I think they are fairly well informed of the reason for our coming out here. I will be happy to discuss with you later.

Congressman Balos

Well the reason I was asking this question is that I think there are islands like Johnston and Wake Islands that are very similar in geology to Eniwetok.

Lt. Col. Circeo

Later on this afternoon if possible if you are available, I would like to meet and discuss with you this.

Dennis Olsen

I have a question regarding the Eniwetok site selection. When did your two years search for a possible site for the PACE program end?

Lt. Col. Circeo

Well we started in about 1967 to 1969. A report was written around January 1970, on the geology of Eniwetok

Atoll. Shortly after this we started getting consultants together and we requested funding for the program here. Now you probably heard last night the biggest problem against coming out to the Pacific at that time was me. I was looking for other sites and a much cheaper program.

- Dennis Olsen I just want to get some idea as to the chronologically of what happened. When did you finally decide to use Eniwetok as the site in your PACE program.
- Lt. Col. Circeo I think it was around the beginning of 1970 when we were finally convinced that we would have to come back here.
- Dennis Olsen Did you inform the Trust Territory at that time that you intended to use Eniwetok?
- Lt. Col. Circeo No, we had discussions with the Air Force. The Air Force is contracting the thing so they went through the paperwork. We are just one of the monitoring agencies.
- Dennis Olsen Are you aware of when the Trust Territory was first informed about it?
- Lt. Col. Circeo No.
- Peter T. Coleman The PACE Program was discussed only when we were talking about the return. We were informed then of the remaining programs here and the definite date for the return was set, that is when the PACE Program was discussed,
- Dennis Olsen You have no knowledge of the PACE program before April 1972?
- Jon Anderson In other words, prior to the time that the program was set for the return of Eniwetok, it was not considered on the part of the Defense Department necessary or even desirable to consult with the Trust Territory Government with regard to any uses that Eniwetok might be put too.
- Lt. Col. Circeo I guess that qualified yes to your question. I'll have to dissect it.
- Dennis Olsen When was the Environmental Impact Statement filed and made available to the Trust Territory?
- Lt. Col. Circeo Well that is two separate questions. We had given the Environmental Impact Statement, actually it was not finished till March, sometime in March or April, we gave copies to the Trust Territory Government. It was actually filed with the Counsel of Environmental Quality on the 18 of April back in Washington.

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Dennis Olsen

Are you aware of any attempt to tender the Environmental Impact Statement directly to the Eniwetok people?

Lt. Col. Circeo

I don't think so, I just don't know. The Counsel of Environmental Quality send the reports out to agencies concerned, I am not sure if they send one to the Trust Territory Government or not although we brought one out for them. Anybody is free to comment on the Environmental Impact Statement. Now after 45 days, I think it is, we get all the comments and we put out the final statement. This is just a draft right now.

Roger Ray

It is not a normal thing for the agency of the Department of Defense to deal directly with the Trust Territory. Normally that cross-over is made at departmental level. I am not sure that you have a complete picture when you ask whether DNA or the project people dealt directly with the Trust Territory. The normal channel would be between the Department of Defense and the Department of Interior. I don't think it is fair to ask Col. Circeo the negative question.

Dennis Olsen

I just want to get some idea of the actual sequence. When did the facts become known and discovered within the Trust Territory?

Roger Ray

We just have no way of knowing it.

Lt. Col. Circeo

But we did send copies to Interior.

Dennis Olsen

In early April?

Lt. Col. Circeo

I assume the 18th of April. I have the regulations that we submit these under if you would like to read it.

Peter T. Coleman

The return of Eniwetok is actually something that has been negotiated for several years. I have been Deputy High Commissioner for 3 years now and I know that the District Administrator of Marshalls, Mr. Heine and himself made representation to the headquarters several years back as to when Eniwetok was going to be returned. When the decision was finally made in the office of the President and the date was set, we were notified that certain programs that had to be implemented by that date.

Congressman Balos

Is kind of sad for these Eniwetokese people to come here and see ~~what~~ happened to their islands. I was wondering why they were not informed of this or consulted about this

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program, why they were not informed at all before they started the program?

Peter T. Coleman As far as the Trust Territory Government is concerned, they were not informed because we did not know anything about it. The matter was brought up only after the date was set for the return and certain programs were to be implemented between now and December 1973. That's the reason why we have Col. Circeo with us. He came down to explain to us in our meeting in Majuro. Before that we did not know about it ourselves.

Jon Anderson I would like to ask Col. Circeo again for purposes of clarification, was the Environmental Impact Statement filed on the 18th of April? Yesterday, we were shown the work that is being done out there to prepare your test bed. When was that work begun?

Lt. Col. Circeo I don't know the exact date. I'll have to ask for opinion, but I believe that was sometime in February or March.

Jon Anderson So in other word the project was already underway and in effect a great deal of alteration of the environment was in progress before your Environmental Impact Statement was filed.

Lt. Col. Circeo Yes. Site preparation was underway.

Peter T. Coleman Any other questions. We appreciate very much everybody's help. This is our last occasion to meet formally. We'll get together socially later on.

Gideson S. On behalf of the Eniwetokese Counsel, we would like to express our appreciation and gratitude for everything that has been done for us throughout the week. We know that your people are going to help in cleaning up the place and prepare for their return to their home islands. Thanks for making the Militobi available for the trip to each of the islands to see what happened to the islands and to see which are now missing.

Meeting adjourned