



UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20545

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Honorable John O. Pastore
Chairman, Joint Committee on
Atomic Energy
Congress of the United States

Dear Senator Pastore:

You will recall that in 1946 the natives of the Bikini Atoll were relocated to other islands of the Pacific to permit continuance of the U. S. nuclear weapons testing program. From time to time since then radiological surveys of Bikini have been carried out to determine if radiation conditions were such as to allow the safe return of these people to their island.

Recently, based on a request made by The Honorable Stewart L. Udall, Secretary of the Interior, the Atomic Energy Commission conducted another survey of the Bikini Atoll during the period of April-May 1967. An ad hoc committee of expert consultants was appointed to evaluate the data compiled by the survey team. This committee met on May 13-14, 1968, with the members of the survey team, and the results of their deliberations are contained in their report entitled "Report of the Ad Hoc Committee to Evaluate the Radiological Hazards of Resettlement of the Bikini Atoll," copy of which is enclosed, along with pertinent appendices related to the data evaluated. A substantial number of additional documents, also evaluated by the Committee, are listed by subject in Appendix II, but are not attached hereto because of the considerable volume and detail involved. These are available from Commission files if required.

The Commission has reviewed and approved the conclusion and recommendations of the ad hoc committee which in brief:

1. Concluded that the exposures to radiation that would result from the repatriation of the Bikini people do not offer a significant threat to their health and safety.

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2. Recommends a number of measures to be followed to further reduce exposure.

The Commission is forwarding these recommendations, with related documents, by letter to the Secretary of the Interior (copy enclosed) for appropriate action. Since there are many other problems involved in the repatriation of the Bikinians to be resolved by the Department of the Interior, the Commission contemplates no further action at this time. Copies of the report have been sent also to the Departments of Defense and State and to the National Security Council, as indicated on the letter to the Secretary of the Interior.

Representatives of the interested agencies will meet shortly to consider the preparation of an appropriate public announcement. A copy will be provided to the JCAE as soon as it is available.

If further information or discussion is desired on this matter, please let me know.

Cordially,

Chairman

Enclosures:

1. Rpt ad hoc committee (OUO)
2. Ltr AEC to Udall

#1 encl. attached to Udall's ltr.

bcc w/#2 encl:

Chairman (2)

Commissioner Ramey

Commissioner Tape

Commissioner Johnson

GM (2)

OCR (2)

Secretariat (2)

AGMRD

bcc w/o #2 encl:

OS

PI