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BIKINI SURVEY (B10-1007)
 FOLDER July, 1969

July 2, 1969

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Robert E. Miller, Manager
 Nevada Operations Office

BRIEFING OF TRUST TERRITORY HIGH COMMISSIONER - JUNE 27, 1969

On May 6, 1969, I sent a communication to Edward E. Johnston whose appointment as Trust Territory High Commissioner had just been confirmed by the Senate. My message invited him to visit my office for a briefing on the Bikini Cleanup Project and other programs in which the AEC was involved in the Trust Territory area of the Pacific. Because of previous commitments relating to his new appointment, Mr. Johnston advised me he would be unable to accept my invitation until June 27. On that date we had a discussion which lasted for about one and one-half hours. Those participating in the meeting were:

The Honorable Edward E. Johnston, High Commissioner, Trust Territory
 William A. Bonnet, Manager, Honolulu Area Office
 Col. John L. Schott, Jr., Deputy Commander, JTG 8.5
 Col. James R. Barton, J-3, JTF-8 -- DASA Representative
 James R. Johnson, General Manager, FDT, Holmes & Narver, Inc.
 William B. Hills, Chief, Administrative & Technical Branch, HAO

The following items were the principal matters discussed:

1. A general explanation was given regarding the organizational relationship of DASA, JTF-8, JTG 8.5 (HAO) and JTG 8.8 (Bikini Atoll). Our standard briefing viewgraphs were used. The relationship of the Holmes & Narver organization to the AEC and to the JTF-8 was explained in considerable detail.
2. The history, planning, deployment and present status of the Bikini Cleanup Project were given. It was pointed out that Vice Admiral Lloyd M. Mustin is the Project Manager for the Bikini Cleanup Program and in this capacity acts for both the AEC and the DOD.

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3. The present estimate for completion of the cleanup program is September 1, 1969, with rollup to be accomplished by September 15. The detailed scope of the program is defined in the Memo of Understanding dated April 29, 1969, and jointly signed at Bikini Atoll by Col. J. W. Rawlings, C/TC 8.8; Joseph W. Merrill, AEC Deputy; and Dr. Jack Tobin, Trust Territory Representative. The official estimate is \$1,300,000. I expressed the view that the cleanup work as presently scoped could probably be completed for less than the estimate of \$1,300,000; however, I pointed out that any revision to this estimate would have to come from Admiral Mustin as Project Manager.
4. The problem of a full-time Trust Territory Representative at Bikini was discussed. Mr. Johnston agreed that such a representative should be on the site on a full-time basis and said he would examine this subject when he arrived at Saipan on June 30. I explained that the DOD and the AEC both had full-time representatives and that I thought it was essential the Trust Territory have similar representation. Mr. Johnston seemed surprised to learn Dr. Tobin had recently left the site and that a replacement for him had not been designated as far as we know.
5. In looking beyond completion of the cleanup program, I suggested that the Trust Territory might want support from the AEC contractor (H&H). I said we would be glad to discuss any such request from the Trust Territory, but we should do so well ahead of September 1 -- some time in July. Mr. Johnston said he appreciated this offer and was very much interested in pursuing it, but could not do so until he had returned to Saipan and discussed the subject with his staff there. We can expect to hear further from him on this subject.
6. I also mentioned that any equipment or other assets (DOD or AEC) presently on Bikini Atoll which the Trust Territory wanted left after completion of the cleanup program should be identified and formally requested well ahead of September 1 -- some time in July. I expressed the view that detailed decisions regarding specific items of equipment should be made at the jobsite after an overall policy agreement had been reached by Headquarters of the Trust Territory, the AEC and the DOD regarding terms and conditions of transfer. Mr. Johnston said he felt sure the Trust Territory wanted some of the assets left

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at the site. He has an equipment man in his organization who is knowledgeable regarding the type of construction equipment needed by the Trust Territory in its agricultural and community construction programs. This man also knows what kind of equipment the Bikinians are capable of operating and maintaining. Mr. Johnston said he would send his equipment man to Bikini as soon as possible after he reached his Saipan Headquarters.

- 7. I explained the continuing AEC program headed by Dr. Robert Coard of Brookhaven National Laboratory wherein he continues to conduct, at least yearly, medical examinations of the natives on Rongelap and Utirik. Dr. Coard has worked closely with the health officials of the Trust Territory and will continue to do so. The AEC will build a small facility on Bikini Island so Dr. Coard can examine and monitor the natives on that atoll.
- 8. At the request of Admiral Mustin I asked Mr. Johnston if he could accompany Admiral Mustin to the Bikini site on August 18. The High Commissioner replied he was committed to staying in the Trust Territory during the months of July and August and that he would be glad to meet Admiral Mustin and his party at Rujalein on August 18 or 19. I plan to accompany the Admiral also.

Our meeting was extremely cordial and I feel the general briefing information as well as the more specific comments regarding Bikini Atoll Cleanup Project were well received by the High Commissioner. Colonel Barton is also writing a summary of the meeting and submitting it through DOD channels.

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
WILLIAM A. BONNET
William A. Bonnet
Manager

HO-993

NOTE: (See Paragraph 5 above)

With regard to possible follow-on AEC assistance to the Trust Territory outside the scope of the cleanup project, I recommend this subject be explored directly by the AEC with the Trust Territory. No action will be taken until a request is received from the Trust Territory.

bcc: Col. James Barton, JTF-8

OFFICE ▶	J. W. Merrill, Project Engineer, Bikini			
	J. R. Johnson, Gen. Mgr., H&N, Hono			
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