DEP. SEC. HAS SEEN

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From LLNL files MLC Records TMF file = Bikini Agreements and Actions

→ Record

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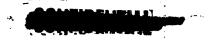
if when OK'ed

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Support for Department of the Interior Radiological Survey
of Bikini Atoll; DoD Funding Requested (U) - ACTION
MEMORANDUM

(U) The Secretary of the Interior letter (TAB A) requests DoD provide
a base support ship, two helicopters and airlift in support of a radio-
logical survey of Bikini Atoll and other islands. The Bikini survey is
required to enable Interior to avoid disruption of the Bikini resettlement
plan, and the potentially serious implications attendant to such disrup-
tion. The additional survey of other islands is a longer-range matter.

(U) The enclosed response to Interior presents a workable proposal for
the Bikini survey support. It does not include the larger project for the
other islands, since the ship is not available for the longer time period.
With respect to the Bikini support alone, the cost to Interior on a reim-
bursable basis would be $609,000. This aspect has been discussed with
Interior and Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA).
Both agencies hold to the position that neither has any funds to pay for
the DoD support and that, absent DoD support, no survey can be con-
ducted at this time. The Secretary of the Interior has indicated that
failure to conduct the survey could have serious political implications
for the United States Government and the Administration.

(C) This brings us to a situation very similar to that encountered in the
Bikini cleanup. The Office of the General Counsel then determined that
DoD had no existing obligation that would allow use of regularly appropri-
ated funds. It was then decided to use the Contingencies, Defense appro-
priation, on the basis of the continuing defense interests in Micronesia.

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(C) The foregoing rationale for the use of the Contingencies, Defense appropriation is equally valid today (ISA memorandum of 14 December 1968 at TAB B). Therefore, we recommend your approval of the use of the Contingencies, Defense appropriation and the furnishing of the requested Bikini support, with the proviso in the letter to Interior that reimbursement will be required for future operations of this nature. Accordingly, it is recommended that you sign the enclosed letter to the Secretary of the Interior and the memorandum to the Secretaries of Navy and Air Force and Assistant Secretary of Defense (Comptroller).

JOHN J. _____

Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense
(Installations and Logistics)
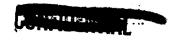
Enclosures
a/s

CONCUR:
ASD(ISA) RADM W. J. Crowe (Regional Dir-East Asia-Pacific) TAB C
ASD(C) T. E. McClary (ASD(C)) TAB C
DDR&E J. W. McCord (Asst Dir (Test Resources)) TAB C
OGC M. R. Hoffmann (GC) TAB C
ATSD(AE) BG W. B. Maxson (Deputy ATSD(AE)) TAB C

Prepared by CAPT MEARL GALLUP, OX71903

Attachment 35

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