

July 30, 1974

SECY-75-99

COMMISSIONER ACTION

SUMMARY SHEET

Subject: COMMENTS REGARDING COMPENSATION FOR INHABITANTS OF RONGELAP AND UTIRIK ATOLLS EXPOSED TO FALLOUT

Purpose: The enclosed letter from Dr. Liverman to Mr. Thomas S. Dunmire of the Staff of the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives comments on a report of the Special Joint Committee Concerning Rongelap and Utirik Atolls of the Congress of Micronesia. The report is concerned with justification for compensation for those inhabitants of the Atolls who were exposed to radioactive fallout after the March 1, 1954, thermonuclear test conducted on Bikini Atoll. Dr. Liverman's letter expresses and supports an AEC position on this matter. Mr. Dunmire has also requested comments from other departments of the Government that have an interest in this matter.

The exposed Rongelap inhabitants were previously compensated under Public Law 88-485 in 1964 prior to the development of important late medical effects. Since lead responsibility was assumed by the Department of the Interior when P.L. 88-485 was under consideration by the Congress, the AEC has largely confined its comments in the enclosed letter to scientific considerations. Because of its sponsorship of the annual medical surveys conducted in the Marshall Islands by Dr. Robert A. Conrad and his Brookhaven National Laboratory team, AEC is uniquely qualified to address the scientific and medical aspects of this matter.

Commissioner's comments are requested by c.o.b. August 5, 1974. Comments may be provided directly to Dr. Marks, X5408. This letter was prepared by BER and concurred in by OGC, OGR, and AEC/C.

*for L. d. Khan*  
General Manager

Enclosure:  
Letter

Contact:  
S. Marks, DBER  
X5468

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