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INTERNATIONAL  
SECURITY AFFAIRS

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

29 SEP 1973

In reply refer to:  
I-10740/73

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE  
DIRECTOR DEFENSE NUCLEAR AGENCY

SUBJECT: Amplification of Responsibilities in Regard to Eniwetok

As requested by the Secretary of Defense, the Joint Chiefs of Staff on 30 November 1972, designated the Director, Defense Nuclear Agency as the Department of Defense Project Manager for matters concerning the cleanup of Eniwetok. These duties include acting for the Secretary of Defense in planning and, if so determined, accomplishing the cleanup of Eniwetok, and to provide representation and enter into agreements in this regard. On 8 February 1973, a Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense memorandum to the Director, Defense Nuclear Agency reported several significant developments concerning Eniwetok and forwarded additional guidance.

Recently, a memorandum from the Secretary of Interior, Chairman of the Inter-Agency Group responsible for the cleanup and rehabilitation of Eniwetok, to the Director, Office of Management and Budget, requested guidance as to which agency or agencies should program costs for the project, and how such a request should be submitted.

While the responsibility and procedures for funding the Eniwetok project are being determined, it is considered prudent to perform additional planning actions in the eventuality that the Department of Defense is designated to fund a portion of this operation. Accordingly, the Defense Nuclear Agency, as Program Manager, is requested to accomplish the following tasks with the Air Force cooperating as indicated:

- Collect from the Military Services and Defense agencies official statements of their requirements for access to or use of the resources of Eniwetok Atoll after its transfer to the Trust Territory Government. Based on these statements of requirements, the Defense Nuclear Agency is requested to assist the Air Force in negotiating for the retention of these residual rights incident to the transfer agreement.
- Should the Department of Defense be required to fund the holding operation on Eniwetok during calendar year 1974, assume from the US Air Force on 1 January 1974 the responsibility for this support operation as an adjunct to cleanup activities.

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The Air Force is requested to develop a mutually acceptable plan to reimburse the Defense Nuclear Agency for the Eniwetok holding costs, except for military personnel, for the second half of FY 1974 and to transfer appropriate civilian manpower resources. Air Force should continue to fund for any Air Force military personnel through FY 1974.

- As recommended in the Defense Nuclear Agency letter of 8 August 1973, DNA is authorized to continue to develop and refine costs to cover the cleanup phase should it be required in the FY 1975 Budget. Guidance concerning funding responsibilities is expected from the Office of Management and Budget in the near future.
- In order to avoid future misconceptions, formalize an understanding with the Atomic Energy Commission of the role that Agency will perform in the cleanup operations.

(Signed)

Robert C. Hill

Assistant Secretary of Defense  
International Security Affairs

CC:

ASD (I&L)  
ATSD (AE)  
DDPA&E  
Dir, Joint Staff  
ASD (C)

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