

been surrounded by a concrete cap (photograph attached).

The United States is about to return the atoll to the People of Enewetak, and U.S. responsibility for the Trust Territory of the Pacific is scheduled to be terminated in 1981. It is important for the U.S. to provide the People of Enewetak and the Marshallese Government with a competent, objective radiation safety assessment of this containment. National and international sensitivities about radiation injury and radioactive waste disposal make this a matter of great significance.

As Department of Defense (DoD) Project Manager for the Enewetak radiological cleanup operation, I request that the National Academy of Sciences assess the effectiveness of the Cactus crater structure in preventing harmful amounts of radioactivity from becoming available for internal or external human exposure, and recommend whether the assessment should be reviewed at intervals in the future.

I feel the National Academy of Sciences is the only organization capable of making an effective assessment, for two reasons:

7/12

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ENCLOSURE
AS

Vice Admiral, U. S. Navy
Director

8/12

REPOSITORY PNNL
COLLECTION Marshall Islands
BOX No. 5686
FOLDER Enewetak Jan-Mar 1980

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Reviewed by K. Schutte Date 5/1/97