

April 11, 1978

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Representative Paul Rogers  
 House Subcommittee on Health & Environment  
 House of Representatives  
 Washington, D.C. 20515

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Dear Representative Rogers:

I believe you are conducting hearings on low level radiation  
 and the effects of nuclear tests on Bikini.

Any accounts of this testing in the Bikini Islands which I  
 have read leave me appalled that our government deliberately  
 contaminates a beautiful area, leaving a people homeless,  
 poisoning vegetation, water and all life.

What right does our government have to force people to leave  
 their homes so that dangerous experiments can be made? Then  
 after letting 100 inhabitants return to the island in 1975,  
 radiation was still declared too high "in some parts of the  
 island" for habitation. Then it was discovered that original  
 reports were in error - that radiation levels in soil and  
 water were above safety standards, and as a result the replanted  
 food staples were contaminated. Then in 1977 the island was  
 declared unsafe for human habitation and is to be totally  
 evacuated again.

How could such a potentially fatal error happen? Can it be  
 called an accident? I don't think so. I think our government  
 cares little about the life of a few human beings compared  
 with these "all-important tests" on the effect of radiation  
 on every living thing. The men who are so bent on nuclear power  
 should act as guinea pigs - they are scientists and can analyze  
 themselves and their children for the long-range effect of  
 radiation on the human race and environment. The experimentation  
 on unknowing people is appalling.

I ask that not only underground testing be banned - as asked by  
 Leonid Brezhnev - but that all radioactive and nuclear testing  
 be outlawed. That we transfer that effort and those millions  
 of taxpayers' money into solar experiments for the good of all  
 humanity.

*Helen Kingsbury*

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cc: Representative Henry Waxman  
 Representative John Burton  
 Senator Alan Cranston

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