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ADDRESS REPLY TO
PLSP

2 MAY 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
THE SECRETARY OF INTERIOR
CHAIRMAN, ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

BT RECORD COPY

SUBJECT: Status Report, Cleanup of Bikini Atoll (U)

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

1. References:

a. Presidential letter for Secretary of Interior, dated 12 August 1968, subject: Resettlement of Bikini Atoll.

b. Presidential letters for Secretary of Defense and Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission, dated 12 August 1968, subject: Resettlement of Bikini Atoll.

c. Director, Joint Staff Memorandum 140-69 for Director, Defense Atomic Support Agency, dated 30 January 1969, subject: Bikini Atoll, DOD Support for Clearing Operation.

d. Memorandum of Understanding between Defense Atomic Support Agency and Atomic Energy Commission, dated 11 February 1969, subject: Cleanup of Bikini Atoll.

2. Reference a requested the Department of the Interior to develop a program to resettle the former natives on Bikini, and reference b requested the Department of Defense (DOD) and Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) to assist the Department of Interior and the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory, Pacific, in that resettlement. As a pre-requisite to it, the DOD and the AEC jointly agreed to clear Bikini Atoll of residuals from its use for nuclear testing which could be hazardous to the natives or could interfere with their agricultural use of the land, and references c and d designated Director, Defense Atomic Support Agency (DASA) as the AEC-DOD Project Manager for that cleanup. Funding in amounts of \$300,000 each from AEC and DOD was provided for cleanup operations commencing in FY 1969, with \$700,000 to be provided by the Department of Interior in FY 1970 to complete this task.

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3. On 18 February a joint military and civilian-contractor Task Group, comprising 26 men with equipment, landed on the Atoll by ship and began cleanup operations. This Task Group (JTG 8.8) is commanded by Colonel J. W. Rawlings, USAF, and is a component of Joint Task Force EIGHT, DASA. By 23 February the former air strip on ENYU ISLAND, Bikini, was operational and certified for Military Airlift Command flight operations.

4. The Bikini Task Group currently comprises a total of 40, of whom 17 are military. Dr. Jack A. Tobin, a representative of the Trust Territories administration, is present at the Atoll to consult on individual elements of cleanup requirements. The work is proceeding satisfactorily. As of end-April it was approximately 25% complete, which permits realistic appraisal of the overall task. No significant operational difficulties have been experienced and none are forecast. A detailed listing of known cleanup items, with planned disposition, is being prepared as a basis for inter-agency concurrence on the completion of the AEC-BOD tasks. Present estimate is that the latter can be completed by October 1969 if the necessary additional funds in the amount of \$700,000 are available by 1 July 1969.

5. Specific comment on the funding situation and requirements will be the subject of separate correspondence.



L. M. MUSTIN
Vice Admiral, USN
Director

CF:
Chairman, JCS
ATSD(AE)
AGMMA/AEC
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CJTG 8.8