

MAJURO, MARSHALL ISLANDSMEETINGSEPTEMBER 1, 1975

Participants: Oscar DeBrum, TTPI  
 Tony DeBrum, TTPI  
 Roger Ray, ERDA  
 Paul Gudiksen, LLL  
 Kristine Morris, ERDA

REPOSITORY DOE/PASO  
 COLLECTION DOE/NV  
 BOX No. 1234  
 FOLDER BIKINI - MISC CORRESPONDENCE -  
DOE/RATS  
9/74-12/75

This was an informal meeting to organize the presentation of ERDA recommendations on the Bikini Master Plan and second phase of resettlement housing for our meeting with the Kili people. Distad DeBrum expressed his thanks to us for answering his request and accompanying him on his trip to Kili and Bikini.

Joe Murphy, editor of the Micronesian Independent, had submitted a list of questions to Distad DeBrum concerning radiation and the habitation of Bikini. Paul Gudiksen prepared answers to the questions. (Attachment A)

We wanted to accomplish the following goals at Kili and Bikini:

1. People can live safely on Bikini for an indefinite period of time.

Distad DeBrum asked if the houses hadn't been built on Bikini would Bikini be quarantined? Apparently this was the impression held by the TTPI representatives as a result of the August 12 meeting at Livermore. Dr. Biles was alleged to have said this. Roger Ray sent a TWX to Washington for clarification and received a clarification response two days later. (Attachment B)

Distad Debrum said he felt insulted by the Department of Interior because they released the press announcement concerning a six month delay in the return to Bikini without informing or consulting him. Why announce it outside first?

DeBrum said people are still planning to return to Bikini. We assured him ERDA doesn't believe there should be a delay. The number of people returning is limited only by the available housing.

2. ERDA feels nothing we will learn six months from now would effect the return to Bikini.

The information to be gained from soil, water and biota analysis will be an understanding of which food production areas should be studied more and which foods should be deleted from the diet. We reiterated that DeBrum should emphasize development of Enyu.

3. Copra production can be done on both Bikini and Enyu, however, only Enyu should be used to grow subsistence crops.

Majuro, Marshall Islands  
Meeting

DeBrum pointed out that the Bikinians at Kili have always lived in one village. He wasn't sure how they would react to living in two villages. He felt they would be willing to be separated if their safety is insured. Nathan, the scribe at Kili, has said that no more houses will be built on Bikini and no one will return.

Roger stated that he has reservations about having people return to Bikini and promising not to eat breadfruit and pandanus when it matures.

DeBrum said it was up to the people to make and keep such promises.

Majuro, Marshall Islands  
Meeting

SEPTEMBER 1, 1975 - 3:00P.M. Meeting

Participants: George M. Allen, MLSC  
Ataji Balos, Congress of Micronesia  
Kristine Morris, ERDA  
Roger Ray, ERDA  
Paul Gudiksen, LLL

Allen was hostile the moment he entered the room stating he was "goddamn" mad our "senior scientists" didn't come with us. He followed this with opinions about "super-grade" federal employees specifically Dr. Biles.

Allen said he and his clients were not competent technically to make a decision about living on Bikini.

Allen wanted to know if comparative studies on marine life in the lagoon before testing at Bikini and now had been done. Did the pass blown in the reef allow sharks into the lagoon?

Allen expressed his concern about the ERDA recommendation not to drink ground-water at Bikini. He feels that Bikini is far enough north that water could become a problem for a large community. We attempted to respond to all of these subjects, however, Allen was abrupt, rude and interrupted with other topics and questions.

SEPTEMBER 2, 1975

Participants: Oscar DeBrum, Distad  
Tony DeBrum, Asst.  
Harley Earewicker, Dist. Att'y. Majuro  
Roger Ray, ERDA  
Kristine Morris, ERDA  
Paul Gudiksen, LLL

Essentially this meeting covered same areas as yesterday's meeting.

Roger went over two TWX's (Reports 1 and 2 from Majuro). No one had any comments.

We discussed Dr. Conard and a potential problem with misinterpreting his reports and actions. One example from Distad DeBrum: He quoted a congress of Micronesia Fact Finding report which said that people living on Rongelap eating indigenous foods grown there, have an increase in their "radiation" count. The numbers mentioned were 30% to 60% higher.

Roger and Paul both said they were unfamiliar with this information. It seems to be misconstrued.

A meeting with the Kili Council, Nitijela representatives and Congress of Micronesia representatives was planned for 1:00 P.M.

SEPTEMBER 2, 1975 - 1:00 P.M. MEETING

Participants: Oscar DeBrum, Distad  
Tony DeBrum, TTPI  
Carmen Bigler, Rep. to the Congress of Micronesia  
Charles Dominik, Rep. to Congress of Micronesia  
Ataji Balos, Rep. to Congress of Micronesia  
Larry Edwards, Distad Rep. Ebeye  
Lanlin Alik, Distad Rep. Bikini  
Nathan Note, Scribe  
Anien, Nitijela, Speaker  
Ekpap Silk, Nitijela Representative  
Jim McAfee, Legislative Counselor  
Adjin Paul, Nitijela Representative  
Kita Lanin, Nitijela Representative

Ray: Thank you Distad DeBrum. As Mr. DeBrum said I am from the ERDA as is Kris Morris, what you formerly knew as AEC. Dr. Gudiksen is from Lawrence Livermore Laboratory and has been an active participant in surveys at both Enewetak and Bikini including the most recent one at Bikini in June.

About a year ago Mr. DeBrum asked us, asked ERDA, to assist in the review of the Master Plan for the development of Bikini and very specifically, to comment upon the proposed locations of new housing features of that community.

In January of this year in a meeting in Anaheim attended by Distad DeBrum and others from Majuro, we looked over the preliminary Master Plan and asked that action on that plan be delayed until we could make a new comprehensive survey, especially of Bikini Island. Our reason for that was that for the first time we saw a plan to build houses on the interior and not on the lagoon, as the present houses are. So we felt it was necessary to learn, to know, more about the possible radiation levels in the interior before we suggest that plan be carried out.

We had planned that that comprehensive survey include an aerial survey of all other islands in the atoll including Bikini and Enyu.

We hoped that that survey would take place starting in about April of this year. It required that we have aircraft and ships and substantial support from the Department of Defense. We planned that and requested that from the Dept. of Defense but for reasons of interference from other activities it could not be scheduled to provide this support in time to do this survey as we had hoped to do. So we revised our plan and using our research vessel, our LCU, the Liktañur, which is based at Kwajalein, in June we sent about 25 men to Bikini to conduct a detailed survey on the ground. The results of that survey are in two parts. First, our purpose was to make measurements with instruments right on the ground of the radiation levels that would be experienced by people on the islands, to determine if there were places where the radiation levels were too high for the full time residents and to map that in order to be able to advise on housing locations. This information was available almost immediately after the survey. It took us a little while to plot it on maps and interpret that but that information was available quite promptly after our survey in June.

The second type of information we wanted to get, was information about concentrations of radiation in the soil, the plants, vegetables and small animals that might be a part of the food of people residing on Bikini. That information will

take about six months to learn after we've taken the samples and the samples have been taken back to Lawrence Livermore Laboratories and other laboratories where they will be analyzed and by the end of this year the information from that part of the program will be available.

On August 12, just two weeks ago or a little more, we met at Livermore, California to present for the first time the results of the first phase of the survey, the measurements that had been made on the ground. There were several representatives from Majuro there: Mr. DeBrum, Dennis McBreen, Harley Earwicker as well as Mr. Allen from MLSC. At that time we presented the results, that we will go over briefly with you this afternoon, and the Distad at that time asked us to come here and accompany him to Kili and Bikini to discuss these findings first hand with the people of both Kili and Bikini: And that's our purpose in being here. Now in the meantime we understand that a lot of conversation, a lot of rumors have been discussed here at Majuro and I suppose elsewhere in the Marshalls. Those that we've heard about are pretty serious distortions of the facts of the understanding that we have and I'm sure we welcome the opportunity we have to tell you first hand what we've found and give you the opportunity to ask questions. We'd like to know what your questions are and to try to respond to them. First and most important of what I'd like to leave with you is the houses now built on Bikini Island are safe for people to live in. They have been safe for people to live in since they were built and they continue to be safe to live in. The radiation levels in that part of the island along the lagoon where those houses are built are well within the standards acceptable for human habitation. But with the understanding that people who live in those houses should not have their diet, their food, come entirely from Bikini island. Some of the food, especially breadfruit and pandanus grown in the soil of Bikini island, would have radiation levels high enough that if they were a major part of the diet over a lifetime there would be unacceptably high levels of radiation for those people. Let me say again it's not the houses, it's the food grown there. And since the people at Bikini now are not subsisting, not eating a diet from Bikini island, there's no reason for them to be apprehensive or concerned about their health. There's no reason for them to be feeling there's been a mistake made by letting them be there. There's no reason that every one of those houses should not now be occupied. If people chose to live in them understanding that their food must come from elsewhere as it is now. One other condition that we do not know enough about is the groundwater, the well water, to be able to say that is safe for long term consumption. There certainly are not high enough levels in that water that a small amount of it or drinking it over a period of a few weeks is a serious thing. But we have not yet studied the groundwater enough. We've not done enough analysis of it to give that a clean bill and say it's alright for consumption. So we would recommend that if the houses on Bikini island be occupied, there be sufficient catchments so that people can rely upon catchment water for drinking and cooking purposes and not rely upon groundwater. Those are the only two conditions that we would suggest be placed upon taking up residence on Bikini. Let me say that we are not urging people to go to Bikini, nor are we urging them not to. That is not our decision. Our business is to advise the Distad and advise the council and the people to the best of our ability as to what the conditions are. It's your choice and their's as to whether it's a reasonable thing to do to live on an island where you can't raise all your food. But that has not anything to do with the safety of being in those houses. They are safe for habitation. The rest of the island is safe for the people to walk around and visit on. It's simply that we do not believe that additional houses should be built inland on Bikini at this time.

The additional information we have already from the survey is that Enyu island is perfectly safe from all standpoints. Crops grown on Enyu are safe to eat. Houses built anywhere on Enyu are safe to live in. And there would be no constraints, we know of no constraints or conditions that need to be placed on people that would live on Enyu island permanently. For that reason we have suggested that consideration be given to changing the impetus, the growth of Bikini Atoll, the development of Bikini Atoll, shifting the emphasis of growth to Enyu at this time. Not withdrawing from Bikini, unless it becomes just inconvenient for people to live on Bikini. We don't say that for safety reasons people not live on Bikini. We say that we think a better community, a more complete community and one that will be much more compatible with the lifestyle of the people can be done on Enyu. Two more points I'd like to make: All of the fish, all the food from the lagoon, are safe to eat. No radiation levels of any consequences are in the fish products at Bikini Atoll. The point I'd like to be sure to make is that it is our intention, regardless of what decisions are made about the repopulation of Bikini island, it is our intention to continue research, to study, monitoring and surveillance of that island and of Enyu for that matter and of the people to be assured that these recommendations we make continue to be valid. We do intend a long term program to try to learn how to raise crops on Bikini island without them having high levels of radiation. And we think there are very good possibilities that that will materialize. We are committed, we ERDA are committed, to a long term program of study, research, and surveillance and as you know Dr. Conard and his medical team have been conducting surveillance and monitoring of people at Rongelap and recently at Bikini. They will continue that. Should there be any evidence of radiation appearing in the diet, they'll know it before it can be of any consequence or damage to the people. Dr. Conard has reported his surveys of people who have been living there now for a couple of years that he has found no significant radiation levels in those people. That they have not been in any sort of hazardous condition. Have I missed anything? \*(did not mention in this meeting about the restriction on Enyu well water. This was later corrected by TWX to Distad DeBrum. See Attachment C).

Distad that's a summary and we would welcome any questions from anyone.

Ekpap: In your summary you concentrate on only two islands, Bikini and Enyu Islands. What happened to the rest of of the islands? Should the people decide to go there and pick pandanus and breadfruit would they be safe?

Ray: In the recommendations that were made before the cleanup and resettlement of Bikini, it's indicated, I believe, that most of those islands are free for visitation. Visiting, collecting birds eggs, fishing and so forth. There's been one misunderstanding about that which came to me in questions addressed to the Distad. It said that people should not stay more than 24 hours on one of those islands. That I think is a misunderstanding of what was intended. What was intended is that people not take up permanent residence on those islands. But in saying that we feel that it's perfectly safe for people to be on Enyu and for people to be on Bikini. Included in the calculations that result in that statement is the understanding that people will visit those other islands. Dr. Gudiksen has incorporated in his analysis of what we think is a reasonable amount of time that people might expect in terms of hours a day, hours a week visiting, picnicing, collecting and so forth. The other islands are not suitable for residency at this time but they're certainly suitable for visiting. Have I answered that?

Ekpap: Well what I'm really interested in is the people. I don't know how to make sure they don't expose themselves too much. We are away from them. Most of the time they are on the island. They go out there fishing, collecting bird's eggs, and all that. Is it safe for them to pick coconuts?

Ray: Yes. Now pandanus and breadfruit no, and as people are established there, if pandanus and breadfruit are grown on those islands that are not now released for residency we'll have to suggest that they not use those. But the coconuts are alright. The coconut crabs are alright. The fish are alright. The bird's eggs are alright. Pandanus and breadfruit ought to be confined to Enyu island.

Ekpap: What about arrowroot? It is one of the main diets of the Marshallese people. Would it be safe for them to grow it on Bikini Island?

Ray: Can you comment? (to Paul Gudiksen)

Gudiksen: We don't have the final answer to that because we haven't analyzed all the samples and so on. But at this stage of the game it looks like it will come into the same kind of realm as the pandanus. We don't have the final answer to it.

Ray: The answer is about six months from now at the end of the year. We'll tell everything that we know about the food items. There will be much more extensive information than what we can say now. I might tell you also that we've started an agricultural experiment station on Enjebi in Enewetak which has comparable soil conditions and we hope from that to be able to learn a lot more about the food chain considerations and be able to relate those to Bikini. And as time goes on we'll have better and better answers. So initially we may suggest restrictions on foods in a very conservative way and then as we learn more be able to release those.

Dominik: In the middle part of Bikini -- I think the program called for planting quite a bit of breadfruit and pandanus. Have those produced yet?

Ray: At this time we would suggest not using those foods for the Bikini people. We will know in six months which ones of those should definitely be ruled out or we'll have a much better basis for answering your question. I think though we'd like to explore with the Bikini people the possibility of continuing to grow some of those things for research purposes so that we can more quickly get answers to the long term questions.

Dominik: (Unintelligible on the tape -- question was about asking the people to grow crops they would not be able to consume.)

Ray: Some of them yes. We'd at least like to explore that and see if that is an acceptable thing for them. If it would be acceptable for them to continue to cultivate pandanus, breadfruit, bananas and other things in the parts of islands that we don't recommend they use for food production, it would be helpful to us in more quickly getting answers to the research questions.

Gudiksen: I might add though that if it should happen -- if somebody eats some of the pandanus and so on -- that are presently growing there, although in very limited quantities, if someone should eat those, there's no immediate problem. There's actually no problem. Where you do run into a problem is where you have a daily intake of pandanus and breadfruit over the years. Then there is a buildup

of radioactivity in the body. But just eating a few of them at this stage of the game we have no information that says that would produce some problem.

Ray: And that's sort of important I think, Congressman Dominik, that I don't think anybody needs to be concerned about having them growing because we think perhaps somebody might accidentally and not be informed and consume a pandanus or breadfruit or some other fruit as Dr. Gudiksen says. That casual exposure is nothing. If he eats for 20 years as part of his daily diet then you begin to get worried about it.

Bigler: You said in your position, you don't urge people to go or discourage people to go there but, it seems to me, you are the expert on this subject. Wouldn't it be better to discourage the people to go back there since you know that there is still danger there?

Ray: Well, we don't find that there is danger there provided they do not have their entire diet coming from Bikini island ...

Bigler: O.K., O.K. but people like, well you said that pandanus and the breadfruit that are growing there is your concern right now. If they take let's say they eat one day -- it's not dangerous but if they eat it in such a big amount over several years it can be dangerous. So it seems to me that this doesn't make sense to send the people there when you know there will be danger in the future.

Ray: Well there will be if they raise pandanus and breadfruit and make them a part of their diet and if these people stay there for 30 years.

Bigler: O.K. but the Marshallese like pandanus and breadfruit and they're going to eat it anyway.

Gudiksen: But they can grow it on Enyu Island.

Bigler: O.K. that'd be good if we make sure they grow it on Enyu only. But how (are) we going to make sure they don't eat from Bikini Island?

Ray: I think that the point we make is that we have no reason to say don't live there unless living means they will consume food that's grown there. But if they say we're willing to accept that; we want to live on Bikini now; there is food available to us from other sources, as there is now, we have no reason to say don't do it.

Dominik: That means that as long as people are willing to go from Kili to Bikini and we'll provide them food...

Gudiksen: Grow it on Enyu --- grow food on Enyu. Coconuts, pandanus, breadfruit all of these kinds can be grown on Enyu...

Dominik: But they're growing now and it might not be enough and also there's the fact that there are people on Bikini who don't have any land on Enyu.

Ray: That's something we can't judge ...

Dominik: I mean is there going to be any food subsidy provided to those people?

Ray: We must defer to the Distad.

DeBrum: The plan, Charles, is to take care of them until the island become self-sustaining. Copra production - if they start making copra and they can produce what they produced on Bikini earlier --- then they'll be self-sustaining.



Bigler: I'm sorry but it really doesn't make any sense. Could we just stop them from going back there because we know that it could be dangerous for their lives?

Ray: Well of course you can stop them from going back but let me suggest that it may be very desirable from the standpoint of the Bikini people-- until there is a community, until there are houses built on Enyu, to use the houses available on Bikini and no matter what they eat in that time, let's say even two or three years, they couldn't get in trouble on Bikini island yet they'd get the use of those houses that are there.

Dominik: Another thing now, you got those houses on Bikini. They've got to go to Enyu to pick up fruits once those trees start bearing and you know it's quite some distance and sometimes really rough. Is the administration going to provide boats?

DeBrum: It's planned for a lagoon boat, Charles.

Ray: I understand what your concern is --- that it doesn't seem like a very good situation to put people where they're in houses here and the food is there. That's why I'm saying we're not urging people to move into those houses. We want them to understand that there is no safety reason, no reason having to do with their health that they should not use those houses until they have something else available.

Bigler: And at the same time you don't discourage them.

Ray: That's right, we don't discourage them.

Gudiksen: That's not even our decision.

Ray: The only thing we want to discourage them from is eating food growing on Bikini. But if there can be a way, such as there is right now, where they live in those houses but have to get their food from elsewhere, we see no reason why they should not take advantage of the houses that are there.

Gudiksen: Fish is a major part of the diet and that's...

Ray: All fish they catch from anywhere are alright.

Bigler: It seems to me that since you are the expert in this area you could probably encourage them from moving back there at all.

Ray: If that be the will of their council. Certainly we'll support it with the information we have.

Dominik: Excuse me, maybe this is not the place to ask this question, maybe you are not the responsible people. But what is the status of the money that was promised them?

Ray: I'm sorry I can't answer that. That's Interior and I'm not up to date. I haven't been in Washington for some weeks.

McAfee: Would you explain in simple layman terms how the line is set for acceptable standards? What that means? What that concept is?

Ray: Those levels are set in something called the Federal Regulation Guide which is consistent with an international standard representing the best judgement of

people who have studied the radiation injury to people over all of the history of our known exposure to radiation. The number that has been agreed to in our deliberation is 8/10 or slightly lower than the maximum prescribed in that guide.

McAfee: What does it mean to me then if you are under the line? That any damage you sustain is about the same as an ordinary fellow walking down the street?

Gudiksen: Let me give a little bit of a history and show how the numbers came about in a very general form. The International Commission on Radiation Protection was actually started way back in around 1928, I think, to assess the hazards due to X-rays and radium. They studied the data that was available on that problem. Then the Commission studied whatever data became available over the years. It wasn't until the mid-fifties when nuclear power began to be talked about and so on. A great deal of research was funded by the government to study the biological effects of radiation on man and today we have a very large body of radiation at high dose levels and regarding the uptake of radio-nuclides in the body and so on. There are studies on mice, dogs, and so on. Granted we have to extrapolate all this data to man but this international body of experts looked at all this data and they looked at the effects of radiation. It is very important that we work within the framework of the lowest practicable dose. We don't expose people to any more than absolutely necessary. Any amount of radiation is harmful.

DeBrum: And if people stay at Bikini without eating any local food, by the fact that they live there on the islands for 30 years --- what dose can they be expected to be recorded at?

Gudiksen: From just living there?

DeBrum: Yes.

Ray: External dose?

Gudiksen: External dose is expected to be 4 rem in 30 years - 5 is the guideline.

DeBrum: So 1 point below the guideline.

Ray: 8/10 of the guideline.

McAfee: What does say, the average American in the street get?

Gudiksen: 2.4 or something on that order. It varies.

McAfee: Do you know enough about the genetic effects to have confidence in that area? You know you hear some horror stories.

Gudiksen: O.K. as a matter of fact if you expose people to 3 rem in 30 years and that's the guideline, there could be genetic damage and that means some damage in the offspring and that damage could reflect in a number of ways: Mental problems, physical problems, what have you, but some sort of defect.

Ray: Change rather.

Gudiksen: Some change and you are talking about a few hundred people per million people exposed. A few hundred cases per million people who get 5 rem. Now then if you take this and go proportional to the number of people on Kili who could live on Bikini Island you are talking about less than one case in 30 years.

Ray: Of some genetic change.

Gudiksen: Of some genetic change. We don't know what that change might be.

Ray: A few hundred such changes in the city of Denver.

Ekpap: Earlier we discussed the food source and you said what I consider to be the three staples of these islands: pandanus, breadfruit and arrowroot --- people also preserve these kinds of foods in season for later. I have some questions of you. Are you in position to recommend to the Distad and us how to get some money to provide ourselves food? To get food for our people for the next 10 to 15 years?

Ray: Certainly not to make any official recommendations but it seems quite reasonable to me that given that condition there needs to come from outside some help. Some food support to the Bikini people and it would go I guess through the normal process of budgeting with Trust Territory. Am I right?

DeBrum: We asked the same question Ekpap in a number of our meetings. I'm glad you brought it over. The answer is no --- we should all recognize that when it happens and start budgeting for the program.

Ekpap: Well Mr. Distad, isn't the present position of USDA food to supply something like this?

DeBrum: Right. I know.

Nathan: No honestly, the Bikinians right now do see themselves as a community on Kili. If they deliberately decided not to go to Bikini what have we gained and what have we lost from that rehabilitation program on Bikini? After you have funded the development, it's complete. You have made the survey. Can you honestly say it is safe for human habitation now?

Ray: Yes, just with the restriction we have mentioned. Restriction on food and the restriction on ground water.

Gudiksen: I have a feeling that well water may not be safe to drink from a non-radiation standpoint.

Nathan: If you are acting upon it, Congressman Ekpap, recommendations for funding for seasonal foods --- look for more money for transportation of water from Kwajalein to Bikini. I'm sure that island is dry. They used to chew on that pandanus root for water for many times. And if portions of Bikini still hot as a result of fallout...

Gudiksen: I think we do have to mention one proviso: We have not analyzed the water samples yet for radioactivity. We think they may have activity to make it unsafe to drink it but we don't know that for sure yet. It'll be another six months before we have an answer to that. At least the water I saw there was rather brackish type water and I don't think you'd want to drink it anyway.

Ray: Well I know people were drinking it a few years ago but that's when they just did not have enough catchment (water).

McAfee: You got any predictions about what the passage of time when restrictions will no longer be necessary? Is it another 30 years or is it permanent?

Ray: If we wait just for the passage of times just for the natural processes that are at work to remove these radionuclides, then the half-time is close to 30 years for improvement of the situation by a factor of 2. It's half as bad sometime short of 30 years from now. But there are other things that can be done and especially in the food chain consideration. We believe that there's a good chance that through research and experimentation we can learn ways to keep the uptake into the plant from occurring. It will still be in the soil. It will still be in the ground water but if the plant doesn't take it up then the man doesn't eat it. We have very high hopes for learning how to do that. In fact we're absolutely confident we can make some improvement. But the degree of improvement and how long is still a question and I would guess within 4 or 5 years we'll have some good answers to this. Similarly I guess one might hope to conceive a clever agricultural or irrigation scheme that would bypass or break the cycle here. If you could turn some significant fraction of the island into a catchment and use that for irrigation you would be introducing clean water into the system in selective locations.

McAfee: How long is the dry season?

DeBrum: In Northern Islands I understand about six months.

McAfee: Six months with no rain at all?

DeBrum: Hardly any at all.

Any other questions? If not we want to thank you very much and the leadership for taking their time and exchanging ideas. These questions and answers with Mr. Roger Ray I think are important. All of us should be aware and be enlightened to the extent possible so that we too understand. Then we can understand the people's problems and then we can help them in any way we possibly can, to alleviate their mental anxiety.

Knowing the Bikini people I must admit they are persistent people. The last two times I was there (Kili) they wanted to go right away. Now that they know they have the expatriate payment coming ---it's been approved by the United States Congress. It's just a matter of signing by the President. They saw no reason to wait. I had to ask them to wait a little bit until the results of this particular survey could be made. I can understand that. That's their home island. Mostly it's elderly people that want to go back right away.

Majuro, Marshall Islands  
Meeting

PRIVACY ACT MATERIAL REMOVED

SEPTEMBER 3, 1975

Participants: dri-Kili  
Distad Debrum  
Tony DeBrum (Translator)  
Harley Earwicker, Dist. Atty.  
Carlton Howpe, H&N  
Roger Ray, ERDA  
Paul Gudiksen, LLL  
Kristine Morris, ERDA  
George Allen, MLSC  
Reuben Zachius, MLSC  
Joe Murphy, Micronesian Ind.

We were greeted by a long reception line of dri-Kili. After shaking hands with the entire village we went to the meeting room where a lunch of chicken, bread-fruit and cake was served. After lunch, everyone in the village gathered in the meeting room. Distad DeBrum was introduced. An invocation was asked. Distad DeBrum opened the meeting with appreciative remarks about the dri-Kili hospitality and introduced all of us. He then asked for responses and questions from the people in the room.

Following is the conversation of the meeting. It is not a verbatim report.

Comment: We are not in position to ask questions until we know why this group is here. Please tell us why you're here.

1: As you know we were requested to leave our homeland and come here and we have been waiting. We consider this island a prison. It was a joyous occasion when we were told we could return - - - that our homeland is being prepared. There is poison there. But our request to the U. S. Government (to return to Bikini) was finally honored. We look forward to hearing what you have to say.

DeBrum: I went to a meeting in California about the results of the June survey. The preliminary report recommends that if you choose to live on Bikini, you should not eat breadfruit or pandanus. The interior of the island is not good to build in. A new Master Plan has to be written. Now, I would like to introduce Mr. Roger Ray from ERDA. He will explain this in more detail.

Ray: Thank you for the very nice welcome. Our main concern is to see you return to Bikini as early as possible. When my government announced a few years ago that Bikini was ready for resettlement, Bikini with restrictions and Enyu suggested to be developed first, we promised to return and check it and make sure of its safety.

We have had scientists visit Bikini and Dr. Conard visit people on Bikini.

After our visit last September to Bikini with Distad DeBrum, we were asked to review the Master Plan and make any suggestions to him. In January of this year we met with Distad DeBrum and the planners in California and saw the new locations of the houses. We felt we needed another extensive survey on Bikini. We also felt that now with large numbers of people going to return to Bikini, we needed to study those foods eaten and grown on Bikini. During June, scientists visited Bikini and Enyu and took several measurements of radiation, samples of ground soil, water, plants and small animals. The samples are being analyzed now

Majuro, Marshall Islands  
Meeting

PRIVACY ACT MATERIAL REMOVED

and will be reported at the end of the year. Now we have results summarized in the following way:

Houses are safe to live in with the understanding that food comes from other places, as is the situation now, and water comes from catchments, not ground water.

We cannot recommend that additional houses be built on the interior because radiation is too high for permanent resettlement but it is alright to visit. (Audience restless and whispering among themselves.)

Enyu is entirely safe for housing and agriculture. No restrictions on Enyu.

All fish and marine life in Bikini lagoon are good to eat.

We plan to, regardless of how Bikini is used, continue to monitor Bikini until we know more and can make further recommendations or lift the restrictions we suggest now.

: Thank you Distad for news you bring us but it makes us very sad.

Perhaps thru providence we are alive because if we had returned then we would be dead from radiation. It was not England, Japan or China who said there was no poison. It was America who said there was no poison. Distad, return us at the end of the year.

Allen: I am a lawyer from Majuro. I have decided that Bikini is our most important case. ERDA/AEC says that houses are safe on Bikini. As your lawyer I regret to say that we (MLSC) cannot agree with ERDA/AEC on that position.

We have not yet had time to have scientists outside ERDA/AEC to comment on this report.

Until we have had other scientists look over and comment on the report we cannot agree with the position of ERDA/AEC.

The technical information is the kind where scientists and technicians may have different opinions.

MLSC is not alone in the position we are taking. For example it was reported in the Press from the Dept. of Interior in the Pacific Daily News August 26, 1975: "The DOI, with primary responsibility of the Trust Territory, of which Bikini is part, has constructed first phase of resettlement of Bikini.

The Department reported last week that the contingent waiting on Kili to return should delay returning to Bikini."

We don't want to appear too pessimistic. After Rueben and I go to Bikini we will go to Saipan and visit Ted Mitchell who is head of legal services and confer with him. Then we will obtain comments on these recommendations from other scientists.

PRIVACY ACT MATERIAL REMOVED

Majuro, Marshall Islands  
Meeting

We believe those individual scientists will agree with ERDA/AEC but we must realize the possibility is there that they will not agree. While we are at Saipan it is important that you talk among yourselves.

As your lawyers it is up to us to work with you and carry out your wishes.

I talked with Ataji Balos Monday about these papers. We will want his opinion also.

Nathan: As the Elders said earlier the news you bring is indeed sad news. We aren't blaming the Distad. We aren't blaming the HiCom. We aren't blaming the Dept. of Interior because they are not scientists. We are sad today because of (these) announcements. I will not elaborate about changes on Bikini but will ask about Enyu. Reports from your study have indicated that Enyu is safe for habitation and food. No danger. It would indeed be tragic and return to Enyu like others who returned to Bikini after it was announced safe.

Our Elders will not wait to return to Bikini. We long for our homeland.

Allen: I would then request you (Paul Gudiksen) point out on that island where the levels of radiation are and explain how they will be affected.

I request that you be most thorough and explain how living on Enyu will be safe.

Nathan: I wish to register our concern to our friends on Bikini. They are already exposed.

Ray: Dr. Conard has examined people and they haven't received any significant radiation.

The ERDA report of June was of soil, water will be available soon. Dr. Conard is an ERDA doctor. We can't say there is no radiation on Bikini.

Nathan: Do the people on Bikini have radiation in their bodies?

Ray: (Emphasized that there were no significant levels found)

Nathan: I understand that ERDA does not examine people?

Answer: Explained how ERDA does examine individuals in Rongelap and Utirik because their radiation exposure was different than the exposure on Bikini. ERDA doctors are not Trust Territory doctors who check people for disease, cuts, etc. We look for radiation exposures in people and look at the bioenvironmental and biomedical aspects.

Ray: My last request is to reiterate to the people how safe Enyu is.

Allen: What studies have been done on fish in the Bikini lagoon?

Majuro, Marshall Islands  
Meeting

Ray: Almost continuously since 1946 fish have been sampled by Universities of Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Washington and other contractors. The fish are safe to eat.

(Here there followed another discussion about Dr. Conard and the medical field trips. Conversation was sporadic between Allen and Ray and DeBrum.)

Allen: Mr. Ray and I cannot remember what Dr. Conard's answer was at Livermore pertaining to the number of people examined (at Bikini during his survey).

Nathan: Does anybody there know why Dr. Conard said it was safe when now we hear it is not?

(Dr. Conard is said to have stated in 1968 that Bikini was safe to live on. We did not know about food chain relationships to radionuclides then or were not aware of it on Bikini.)

No subsistence crops were growing on Bikini then. Reference: The Gustafsen report of 1968.

(Discussion building recommendations in 1970 and coconut planting techniques, i.e., removing some soil and replacing with clean soil the planting seedlings.)

Nathan: (To a group men who worked at Bikini.) Were the recommendations (for planting cocunuts) followed? - No.

Nathan: Would houses if made with aggregate from Bikini have poison in them?

Ray: The houses should be made with other aggregate as per statement from Majuro. But it doesn't matter. The readings made inside the houses were very low. Houses cut radiation exposure by factor of 2.

At this point we broke up for a ten-minute recess. We did not reassemble. The dri-Kili went back to their houses and we returned to the Militobi to prepare for the next days meetings.



Kili - Marshall Islands  
Meeting

SEPTEMBER 4, 1975 AT KILI

Participants: Same as Sept. 3 Meeting.

8:00 A.M. meeting with only the men present. Invocation was asked. Introduction from Distad DeBrum: Our ship must leave at 10:00. We must catch an airplane from Majuro to Kwajalein so we may go to Bikini and speak with those people. I hope we have a productive meeting today. Ask all your questions. Mr. Roger Ray will make a summary of our findings and then we will have more questions.

Ray: There are three kinds of questions: 1) Economics and food sources which the Distad will answer; 2) Legal questions which we won't try to answer; and 3) scientific and technical questions which we will advise on.

To review our findings:

1) Houses on Bikini are safe to live in and those who live there are safe. Anyone who joins them are safe for the total activity of their lifestyle.

2) Food cannot be grown on Bikini till we study and know more about the cycle of radionuclides. The normal diet can't be grown for some years.

3) Groundwater from wells can be used for washing and irrigation but drinking water must come from catchments.

The conditions I just described are the conditions of the people now living on Bikini. Dr. Conard has examined them and found no radiation. There is no danger to them at all.

4) Enyu has no restrictions. All food grown on Enyu is safe to eat. All fishes and marine food is safe. Groundwater is probably safe but we haven't analyzed the samples yet. We therefore suggest the same restrictions as Bikini groundwater for the groundwater on Enyu: Use only for washing and agriculture.

We will continue research and monitoring of peoples of both islands to insure their safety.

We will report these same findings to the people at Bikini just as soon as we get there.

DeBrum: Compare the radiation standards used at Enewetak and Bikini.

Ray: Some results will be ready by the end of the year. We will monitor water from both islands for many years.

Allen: About International Standards - - - are there any other more conservative standards used in other states in America?

Ray: I am not aware of any state that uses different standards other than the federal standards. Overriding these standards is our practice of lowest practicable exposures to radiation.

It's for this reason that (standards) are satisfied by living on Enyu. We suggest changes in housing as practical means of lowering the radiation exposures even further.

Kili - Marshall Islands  
Meeting

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Question: If the food on Bikini isn't available and we'll be dependent on food from the outside - - - what will we do if we want to eat local foods? How will we get local foods?

DeBrum: We have a resettlement budget. We can purchase food from other islands or grow food on Enyu. We could pick it up from Kili. This is all considered as part of the resettlement funding.

\_\_\_\_\_: You have also indicated that ground water on Enyu isn't safe yet. Bikini is a very dry atoll. What will we do when we run out of water?

DeBrum: We will respond to your needs as we respond to others in the Marshalls. Bikini will be no exception. If well water runs out, we will help.

\_\_\_\_\_: I want to say a few words. It is unfortunate that we do not have enough time this morning. It will take at least a week to get all our questions answered. I'm appalled at your remarks that such and such is unsafe till we study it further. I don't think its appropriate that that statement be made. If you are sure Bikini is safe then let a few important American families come and live for five years. I will give them my land. There are those who say return to Bikini now. I speak from my judgement: some will return and a great number will not.

DeBrum: These questions about returning to the island was your desire. We will try to help you return with the best safest way possible worked with ERDA, MLSC, Congress of Micronesia, Nitijela to help you return when you desire. We all want to help. Agencies work in different ways. No one is forcing you if you don't desire (to return). Self help should start at home with you.

\_\_\_\_\_: What I said yesterday --- we do ask to return to Bikini.

\_\_\_\_\_: We met until three this morning about whether to return or not. Those who wish to return and those who don't. The feeling may be to return --- but 100 or 200 will not. Those who wish to risk their lives to go back can and there are those of us who will stay.

DeBrum: I don't think that's a proper term to use. We wouldn't advise them to return if there was danger to their lives.

\_\_\_\_\_: If the government were not sure --- yet the government in the past has agreed there was no danger on Bikini, we could build houses and plant foods on Bikini and now it is not safe. How will we live on Bikini? Go out of the house a little bit and back in?

DeBrum: The coconuts are good on Bikini for copra. You can make copra. You're free to use Bikini.

Allen: I believe the understanding of the interior of the island will be better understood if Dr. Gudiksen will explain the tests done on the interior. It will be easier to understand if the numbers used at Livermore were presented.

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Kili - Marshall Islands  
Meeting

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Gudiksen: As we have said earlier, the numbers in the interior are higher than at the lagoon road. Our results indicate it is entirely safe to carry on activities in the interior of the island.

Allen: Because I know that ERDA/AEC will give me more maps I will leave my copies with the magistrate now. (Maps were attached to the Aug. 12 Livermore report.)

\_\_\_\_\_ : I feel if the government feels if these islands are safe then we will return. Enyu is safe. We will return. If Bikini is not safe then the government should find us another place to settle. This community is not healthy.

\_\_\_\_\_ : I wish to add on to what he has said. Our government will not force us to return or stay. It is my understanding that people here were removed from the atoll by the government. We will hear the words of the government who worry about our security and safety. We are not subject to traditional leaders. Is the government going to watch us drown or take a stand? You must understand that we feel we have a right to a decision. The government is trying to detach itself from us.

Dr. Conard --- how would he know if we had not eaten breadfruit and pandanus if we live on Bikini?

We will not let Dr. Conard examine us if it is true Bikini and Enyu are safe.

DeBrum: I appreciate you speaking up and telling us your feelings about this resettlement.

The government will not force you to go back. It will not abandon you. As a result of the original move there is a community on Kili. There are those who are attached to Kili. They were born here and they do not want to go back. The Elders want to return. To accommodate this, people can return to Bikini or remain on Kili. If you return to Bikini, Kili and the lands on Jaluit will continue to be of use to Bikini people. I am concerned about the feelings of the young man not to allow Dr. Conard to examine the people.

Allen: Let me ask a question of the officials of ERDA/AEC --- Office of legal services understands about the doctor. Will ERDA/AEC make it possible to have examinations by doctors of their own choosing? They might choose other American or Japanese doctors or doctors from other parts of the world. They might choose not to be examined. Would this be acceptable to ERDA/AEC?

Ray: The medical program exists because we feel it is our obligation. Dr. Conard is generally accompanied by volunteer doctors from other countries. I'm sure we welcome any help from other doctors who can work with us.

The U. S. Government has no way of forcing the people to be examined or treated. I want to clarify Dr. Conard's long term program: Equipped with sensitive instruments he can find radiation in bodies before it causes any hazard. His primary reason is to find radiation before it causes disease. If there is radiation present in the body then we send in scientists to find what the problem is and stop it before it becomes a problem.

PRIVACY ACT MATERIAL REMOVED

Kili - Marshall Islands  
Meeting

Allen: Will ERDA/AEC contract with other doctors chosen by the Bikini people and let them use ERDA equipment?

Ray: People need to make a specific proposal and the counselor needs to study the present program. We will entertain such a proposal certainly.

Allen: MLSC appreciates Mr. Rays recommendations and when we return in a few weeks we will have information about contracting with a team of doctors of your (the people of Kili) choice to study the poison from the bomb.

\_\_\_\_\_ : First while I agree with the others --- the government who is our protector has not told us which road to take. I have heard talk of medical surveys with blood samples and I don't think we will do more for the US. We have done so much

To return and be subject to more examinations --- I will not allow myself to be examined by any doctor.

We are sure if it is safe. It's not fair to return now if you're not sure it is safe. A little more patience and when the government, the AEC, says it is safe, then we will return.

Elders did you know if we returned these medical examinations would go on?

\_\_\_\_\_ It is sad that our younger people who have gone to school, like Nathan, forgot the will of the people. We want to return immediately.

Ray: I would like to make a personal statement. I address all the speakers of the last few minutes and especially Nathan.

I cannot offer important American families to live on Bikini but I can express my feelings. During my work in the last 25 years, I have been exposed to much higher levels than are on Bikini now. I lived and worked at Bikini several months when levels were higher than now. I lived and worked at Enewetak for two years with levels higher than now.

Although I no longer have children I would not hesitate to move them to Bikini. During the last four years I have devoted my life to returning the peoples of Bikini and Enewetak. If I could continue my work on Bikini I would not hesitate to do this.

\_\_\_\_\_ There is one thing that bothers me. The secret plans you have to send medical teams to examine us.

Ray: I will carry that message to Washington. There will be no secrets. Nothing will be done without consent of the people.

DeBrum: There are certain basic facts that you must realize:

- 1) People were resettled from Bikini so their island could be used for tests.
- 2) In doing so the Bikini people have helped so much in the US balance of power. You have suffered much through the years.

Kili - Marshall Islands  
Meeting

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3) We have tried to help the people. USDA food to help people become self sufficient. In recognizing your hardships we requested three million dollars exgratia payment to help out.

4) You have at your disposal the best medical doctors in the world.

\_\_\_\_\_ : I have followed this discussion since your arrival yesterday. I have made some conclusions: Some are for going and some are for staying.

There is a great deal of confusion and ignorance, arguments on both sides whether or not to return. The government should indicate whether or not it is safe. There is indecision. I hope when you return you can tell us it is safe or unsafe. You are divided and indecisive and so are we.

Allen: On behalf of me and my wife who has been taking pictures which we will use in your case, thanks so much for your hospitality and sharing your island with us. As you know we will return in a few weeks after we go to Saipan to confer with our central office. We need to get you the information TTPI and ERDA/AEC has. The material has been available to me for three weeks. MLSC has complete confidence in your ability to go through and understand the technical material and we will have it translated on Saipan. I will ask ERDA/AEC to translate technical information so you can understand it. You have a right to more information. MLSC has in the past gone to the US Congress and courts in the TTPI and US and we are prepared to take all necessary action on behalf of the people of Kili. As I told Moses and Nathan in Majuro and Kili people on board the ship yesterday: You have had too many lawyers. I shall continue to work in your behalf not for six months, one year or two years but until the job is done.

\_\_\_\_\_ : If it is true that Dr. Conard has lied, what procedures should we take against him?

Allen: I met Dr. Conard three weeks ago; I'm not sure about the information he has given. I'm skeptical about information ERDA/AEC has given. My doubt extends to Dr. Conard. A deep principle of rights of free people is to select their own doctor, lawyer or counselor. When Reuben and I return to Kili we will discuss Dr. Conard.

\_\_\_\_\_ : Those of us who wish to remain can remain on Kili or Jaluit. If we are not happy, the government should look for other islands for us to live on.

\_\_\_\_\_ : I want to express my support to what others have said. Distad should listen to his request. Before we said we wanted to return at the end of the year. Now I want to amend that to October of this year.

\_\_\_\_\_ : Is it true that people on Bikini get \$55.00 a month?

Lanlin: We provide kerosene, flour, rice that equals \$50 and \$5 spending money. The money is from the resettlement fund. The gas and kerosene are from the resettlement fund.

Kili - Marshall Islands  
Meeting

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Henchi: If these people return to Bikini would they receive \$55.00?

Lanlin: Yes --- \$50 is goods and \$5 spending money.

Q: How long will this \$55 last? A: Till Bikini becomes self sustaining like other atolls.

There were more questions asked of \_\_\_\_\_ concerning details of the resettlement.

A prayer was called for. The meeting adjourned.

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SEPTEMBER 5, 1975 - MEETING AT BIKINI

After we arrived at Enyu island, in the Bikini Atoll via C-54 military charter, it was decided that there was not enough room in the boat available for all of us to go to Bikini. Distad DeBrum, Harley Earwicker, Lanlin Alik and I remained at Enyu while the rest of the party (Roger Ray, Paul Gudiksen, Tony Debrum, Mr. and Mrs. George Allen, Reuben Zacharias, Carlton Hawpe and Robert Hazlett) proceeded to Bikini island.

Approximately 15 people live on Enyu and everyone gathered under a large tree for our meeting at the request of the Distad. The Distad called for an invocation. The meeting was in Marshallese and much more relaxed and casual than the meetings on Kili had been. The Distad told everyone the findings of the June survey and explained the ERDA recommendations for living on Bikini. They commented that they had heard a radio broadcast stating that Bikini was "too hot for habitation" and they were very concerned. An Ebeye newspaper also carried false information concerning the removal of all people at Bikini Atoll. We explained that these sources did not contact us or the Distad and we felt that they were confused rumors and told the people to ignore them.

Shortly after this, the Distad, Harley and I went on a tour of Enyu while the people discussed the news we had brought and organized questions to ask us. We returned about an hour later. Listed below are the Enyu people's questions and a paraphrase of our answers:

1. If Bikini is poison then why isn't Enyu? It seems to me that both islands are poison. What's the difference in radiation levels between Bikini and Enyu?

We explained that the one test (Bravo 1954) in which a great deal of fallout landed on Bikini, did not affect Enyu because of the prevailing winds. We assured them that Enyu was absolutely safe. We explained that the levels of radiation are different for each island because of the degree of fallout -- Enyu received little if any fallout while Bikini received quite a bit. We explained again that Bikini was safe to live on if the recommendations made by ERDA were followed.

2. What about marine life?

Again we explained that the marine life was very safe to eat and virtually free from any levels of radiation.

3. We've been eating pandanus from Bikini Island. Are we radioactive?

We explained that the crucial point in eating pandanus or breadfruit grown on Bikini was if the people ate it as part of their diet for the next 30 years. We assured them that they were in no danger but recommended that they not eat any more pandanus from Bikini Island.

4. How can you say not to drink the ground water here in Enyu? It is all the water we have.

(This is true. There are no cement catchments on Enyu attached to the houses. The houses are scraps of wood, canvas and corrugated tin that have been salvaged

from around the island. There are a few barrels by the few houses on Enyu that had some water in them. Most of the water does come from the wells.)

We explained that we were trying to be safe and cautious. The samples had not been analyzed by LLL yet but they had priority and as soon as the results were available we would notify the Distad. We pointed out that we found two huge cement catchments filled with water (estimated at as much as 50,000 gallons) not far from where their houses are now. We suggested they use that water until the Livermore results are available.

The Bikini group arrived about 2:00 P.M. They reported that they had been very well received and everything went smoothly. The C-54 returned from Enewetak and we left for Kwajalein.



LIST OF QUESTIONS SUBMITTED TO OSCAR DEBRUM FROM THE MICRONESIAN

INDEPENDENT

1. ERDA has agreed to accelerate its followup survey program of Bikini because of master plan developments and 'things learned in the Enewetak Atoll survey'. What were these 'things' learned in the Enewetak Atoll Survey, and how did these things cause ERDA to want to accelerate its survey? Is it safe to assume that the Enewetak Survey uncovered unsuspected radiation dangers that were not apparent in the earlier Bikini survey?
2. How did the Enewetak Survey differ from the Bikini survey? Would ERDA recommend a complete new survey of Bikini using techniques and criteria developed for the Enewetak survey?
3. How does the level of radiation on Bikini compare with the radiation levels on Enewetak?
4. ERDA reports very low levels of radioactivity in bodies of persons living now on Bikini--is this low level in relationship to upper limits of acceptable radiation or to normal human body radiation of people who have not been exposed to other than normal radiation?
5. Bikinians have been told that they may travel to other islands in the lagoon other than Enyu and Bikini but that they should not stay for periods of more than 24 hours. What effect would varying amounts of travel to these islands have on the body radiation level of the Bikinians? Has any thought been given to declaring these islands completely off limits for health reasons?
6. Case No. 2 of assumed living patterns on Bikini specifies limited use of Bikini Island with residence in houses already constructed, no additional construction, no use of food grown except coconut, unrestricted use of fish and use of Bikini Island water for agriculture only. What agriculture? Is this understood to be limited to coconut production only?
7. When, and by whom, were Federal Radiation Guide Values (total for external and internal doses) developed? Are there other guidelines known by ERDA? If so, what are the sources of these other guidelines?

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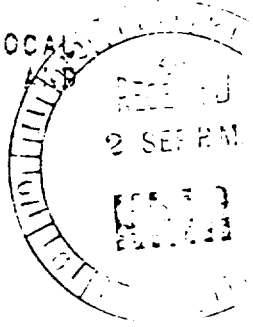
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~~RUWFMGA/CMDR KMR KWAJALEIN MARSHALL ISLANDS~~

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BT  
UNCLAS REFERENCE YOUR TWX, SEPTEMBER 1, 1975, ADDRESSED TO J L LIVERMAN REQUESTING CLARIFICATION OF POSITION PRESENTED AT LLL MEETING AUGUST 12 ON USE OF 40 HOUSES ALREADY CONSTRUCTED ON BIKINI ISLAND, THE DRAFT REPORT PRESENTED BY US AT THE MEETING CONTAINED SEVEN RECOMMENDATIONS RELATIVE TO NEW HOUSING AND COMMUNITY FACILITY CONSTRUCTION IN THE ATOLL AND TO USE OF THE EXISTING FORTY HOUSES ON BIKINI ISLAND, THERE WAS NO, REPEAT NO, RECOMMENDATION AGAINST IMMEDIATE USE OF THE EXISTING 40 HOUSES AND THERE WAS NO RECOMMENDATION FOR ANY DELAY IN OCCUPYING THESE HOUSES, THIS IS STILL OUR POSITION, PARA, THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY DOI OF A SIX-MONTH DELAY IN RETURN OF ADDITIONAL PEOPLE TO LIVE IN THE HOUSES ON BIKINI ISLAND CANNOT BE DRAWN FROM OUR RECOMMENDATIONS PRESENTED AT THE AUGUST

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MEETING OR FROM ANY DISCUSSIONS HELD WITH THOSE ATTENDING, TO THE CONTRARY, OUR RECOMMENDATIONS STATE THAT EXISTING HOUSES ALONG THE LAGOON ROAD MAY BE OCCUPIED WITHIN PRESCRIBED GUIDELINES, THE ONLY DISCUSSION OF A SIX-MONTH PERIOD IS RELATED TO OUR ESTIMATE OF TIME NEEDED TO ANALYZE SAMPLES COLLECTED IN JUNE AND EVALUATE INTERNAL EXPOSURES THROUGH THE FOOD CHAIN AND PROVIDE ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE ON LOCALLY GROWN FOODS FOR USE BY THOSE LIVING ON BIKINI ISLAND, THIS ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE WILL NOT HAVE RELEVANCE TO LIVING IN THE HOUSES BUT RELATES TO OUR CONCERN FOR RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS EXPECTED IN CERTAIN FOODS GROWN ON BIKINI ISLAND, PARA, THE QUESTION WAS ASKED DURING THE MEETING THAT IF HOUSES WERE NOT ALREADY BUILT ON BIKINI ISLAND, WOULD THIS BE RECOMMENDED? MY ANSWER WAS THAT GIVEN A CHOICE, BUILDING THE FIRST HOUSES ON ENEU WAS PREFERABLE, BUT I CONTINUED AND SAID THAT SINCE HOUSES ARE ALREADY BUILT ON BIKINI ISLAND, THEY SHOULD BE USED, IN OUR PRESENTATION OF EXTERNAL RADIATION DOSE ESTIMATES FOR THOSE LIVING IN HOUSES ALREADY CONSTRUCTED ON BIKINI ISLAND, WE SHOWED DOSE VALUES WELL WITHIN ANNUAL AND 30 YEAR STANDARDS, WITH RESPECT TO INTERNAL RADIATION DOSE, WE CAUTIONED THAT RESTRICTIONS WOULD BE NEEDED ON USE OF CERTAIN LOCAL FOODS GROWN ON BIKINI ISLAND TO INSURE THAT THE SUM OF EXTERNAL



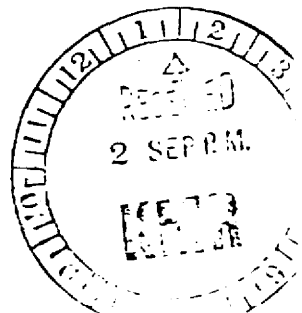
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INTERNAL RADIATION DOSES WOULD NOT EXCEED THE STANDARDS, THIS IS SHOWN IN OUR DRAFT REPORT, WHILE HOUSES ON ENEU ARE PREFERABLE, EXISTING HOUSES ON BIKINI ARE NOT, REPEAT NOT, UNACCEPTABLE, IT WILL BE SAFE TO LIVE IN HOUSES ALREADY BUILT ON BIKINI ISLAND PROVIDED THE RADIATION DOSE REDUCTION MEASURES WE HAVE RECOMMENDED ARE FOLLOWED, WE AGREE THERE HAS BEEN MISINTERPRETATION OF THE MATERIAL AND DISCUSSIONS OF THE AUGUST 12 MEETING, WE AGREE THAT NO USEFUL PURPOSE IS SERVED BY FURTHER DELAY OF PEOPLE GOING BACK TO LIVE IN THE HOUSES ON BIKINI ISLAND, HOWEVER, THE DECISIONS ON RECOMMENDING A DELAY WAS MADE BY DOI AND ANNOUNCED BY THEIR PRESS RELEASE THAT WAS ISSUED ON AUGUST 23;

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REPOSITORY DOE/PASO  
 COLLECTION DOE/NV  
 BOX No. 1234  
 FOLDER BIKINI - MISC CORRESPONDENCE - REAGE / RPTS  
9/74-12/75

SEP 10 18 54 '75

SEP 10 1975

02

PASO ROUTING SLIP	
	SEE A E
DIRECTOR	
SECRETARY	
CLERK	
PROJECT ENGINEER	<u>E 9/10</u>
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER	<u>9/10</u>
PROJECT OFFICER	
PROGRAM ASSISTANT	<u>MAID</u>
SEND COPY TO:	
H&N	
JA SITE REP.	
OTHER	
REMARKS:	

RATUZYUW RHEGNV0025 2531620-UUUU--RUHHWIA.  
 ZNR UUUUU  
 R 101612Z SEP 75  
 FM USERDA ROGER RAY ASST MGR FOR ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY LAS VEGAS NV  
 TO RUHGSAA/OSCAR DEBRUM DISTAD MARSHALLS MAJURO MI  
 INFO RUHHWIA/USERDA PASO HONOLULU HI  
 RHEGLLL/DR PAUL GUDIKNEN LLL LIVERMORE CA  
 AE  
 BT

SUBJECT FILE

UNCLASSIFIED/N O N W D/NARR  
 IN REVIEWING THE TAPE RECORDING OF OUR MEETING WITH MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS AND OF THE NITIJELA AND OTHER BIKINI LEADERSHIP AT MAJURO ON SEPTEMBER 2, I FIND, AS WE DISCUSSED LATER, THAT I DID NOT SUGGEST ANY RESTRICTIONS ON ENYU GROUND WATER. BY THIS MESSAGE I MEAN TO FORMALLY CORRECT THAT RECORD. IN FACE, WE DO NOT AT THIS TIME HAVE SUFFICIENT INFORMATION TO PERMIT AN UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF ENYU GROUND WATER. BASED UPON SOIL LEVELS AT ENYU AND THE EXPECTED LOW LEVELS IN FOOD GROWN ON ENYU WE FULLY EXPECT THAT FROM A RADIATION STANDPOINT THERE WILL BE NO REASON TO RESTRICT OR LIMIT THE USE OF ENYU GROUND WATER.

PAGE 2 RHEGNV0025 UNCLASSIFIED/N O N W D/NARR  
 HOWEVER, TO BE CONFIDENT THAT OUR RECOMMENDATION WILL STAND, WE MUST WITHHOLD A RELEASE UNTIL RESULTS OF LABORATORY ANALYSIS ARE AVAILABLE. I HAVE ASKED THAT THIS PART OF THE LABORATORY EFFORT BE GIVEN FIRST PRIORITY, AND EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO REPORT RESULTS TO YOU BY EARLY OCTOBER. WE ALSO EXPECT FROM TIME TO TIME TO TAKE ADDITIONAL WATER SAMPLES, ESPECIALLY AS NEW WELLS ARE OPENED. THIS CORRECTION WILL BE INCORPORATED IN THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE SEPTEMBER 2 MEETING, COPIES OF WHICH WILL BE MAILED TO YOU FOR DISTRIBUTION. END  
 BT