## 400040 Office Memorandum UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Those Listed Below TO

DATE: June 1, 1954

Rodney Southwick, Acting Chief

Public Information Service

A.P. STORY ON MARSHALLESE NATIVES

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The attached material has been submitted by the Associated Press for AEC review prior to publication. The stories were written by Bill Waugh, AP's Honolulu correspondent, after visits to Kwajalein and Majuro and discussions with Trust Territory officials, natives of Rongelap and Utirik, General Clarkson, and members of medical units at Kwajalein.

Request you telephone your comments by close of business today, if possible so we may get the material cleared through the General Manager's office and returned to Associated Press.

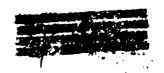
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Kwajalein May 28 (AP). Shrewd Marshall Island leaders believe their protest to the United Nations against American hydrogen bomb experiements put a whip in their hand and they don't intend to lay it down. Their people are scared. The natives of Rongelap and Utirik Atolls were endangered by the March 1 hydrogen bomb blast and many were injured. Natives of Bikini and Eniwetck were uprocted from their home Atolls in 1946-47 and have little hopes of regaining them. I talked to the Marshallese who drafted the protest which went direct to the United Nations. They recognize that it might give Russia some political ammunition in the June session of the United Nations, that it might hurt close American friends in the Trust Territory, Civil Administration of the Island chain. They say they will not budge from their stand as stated in their petition. Overtures already have been made through High Commissioner Frank Midkiff to the Marshallese. In a quick trip here last week Midkiff suggested that they send word to United Nations delegate Henry Cabot Lodge Junior that "we are sure everything is being done that is necessary for our welfare,"

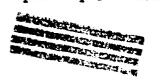
"Fluent, English speaking Dwight Heine, Superintendent of Marshall Island intermediary schools and leader of the petition, told me: 'some people think we are naive children of the tropics. We are not as naive as they think. We will send Ambassador Lodge a reply. It will be pelite but we will not send anything like has been suggested to us.' There is no doubt — among Marshallese or Americans on the scene — that the United States Government has gone allout to help the 82 natives from Rongelap and the 154 from Utirik. They have had the finest medical care. They have been adequately fed and sheltered. They have been compensated for lost farms Copra crops. Utiriks 154 inhabitants left

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today for their home Atoll. They took with them from Kwajalein 100 tons of bounty. Rongelap people will not be able to return to their homes for a year. Nearly every one in this village suffered injury from the fallout from the Hydrogen bomb cloud. Almost all have recovered. They will be removed in early June to Ejit in the Majure Atoll.

Ejit is a 14 acre lush Island. On it the AEC is building a complete village. The United States will provide for them throughout their stay there.

But John Anjun, 30 year old Magistrate and leader of Rongelap, said in an interview:

'Mypeople don't feel good about not going home. We fear we may have fate of Bikini."

The Bikinians, Heine said, "were given a raw deal."

A lagoon people, the 200 Bikinians were bounced from island to island until finally put on isolated Kili—an island which many months of the year is inaccessible because of heavy surf.

Heine and several Americans in the trust territory said the Bikinians are not happy as they feel like they have been put in jail.

The petition was signed by the Heldover Committee of the Marshall Island Congress. The 11 man committee is empowered to act for the Congress in between sessions. It is made up of 6 from the Assembly and 5 from the House of Irouj (Lords).

Heine, Member and spekesman for the Committee, steadfastly denies that any American knew or took part in drafting the petition to the United Nations. He said: "We spent a mange month working on it. We purposely did not let

Mister Neas (Acting District Administrator Maynard Neas) or others (in the Trust Territory) know about it. We were afraid they would get in trouble.\*

The petition was finished and ready for mailing April 20 but Heine said he waited until April 22, the day was a plane was due, to drop it in the mailbox. He said he planned to register it but arrived at the Post Office too late.

Postmistress Irene Records did not recall the letter but said she remembered that Heine had been in and inquired about registering a letter.

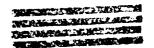
Heine said he also sent a copy of the petition with a letter to the "editor of the Washington Post." The letter said in part: "You may be interested to know that yours is the only publication to which we are sending such a copy. We have chosen you simply because we understand your paper to be a fair and reliable one of national standing."

There was 1 other Marshallese petition leave the Island. It was circulated by school children and sent to Midkiff. The language was much milder than the one sent to the United Nations. Students and all Marshallese and American teachers signed it.

The latter part of March a doctor arrived at Majuro and told Neas they would have to get about 100 blood samples from Marshallese to use as a yard-stick in treatment of the injured natives.

Neas said the official had no intention of giving the natives an explanation. He protested to the official.

The medical group arrived April 5, met with the natives to give them an explanation NEAS requested and the next day the samples were obtained.



Three days before the medical group arrived, Neas held a weekly staff meeting with department heads and Marshallese leaders. The question arose about sending a petition to the high commissioner signed by both Trust Territory employees and Marshallese.

Neas said he thought this was improper, but told the Americans if they wanted they should write individual letters to Midkiff. He continued:

"I, for one, did. I wrote to the high commissioner and noted the feeling of the people (about the H-bomb). For instance I Marshallese said at the meeting 'What are you Americans trying to do. Open up the gates of Hell'. I could tell that there was resentment and fear."

Heine was on a Trust Territory ship at Kwajalein the day of the hydrogen explosion. He said:

"We saw the flash first. It shook the ship. Water around the ship seemed to shake. There were several explosions that went wham wham."

The same day the ship pulled out and arrived the next day at Uterik.

"We were met by many canoes," Heine added. "The first question they asked was 'Is there war on."

"The people said they saw something like flames or shooting stars but too low to be shooting stars. They said children cried and hid in the brush."

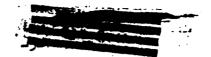
Hein said that on the way back to Majuro he began working on the idea of a protest. He did not learn until his arrival at Majuro that the 2 atolls had been contaminated.

Heine and other members of the Holdover Committee began work immediately.

On April 5 Neas met with the Marshallese to discuss a copra tax. After he had

left, Heine said, he told the Marshallese to remain and they finalized plans for
the petition.

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"We are a small people -- only 11,000 of us," he said. "and the only way to get people to pay attention is when we call loud."

"We felt the American people were bound to hear about it (the petition). We have faith they (Americans) will do something about it."

Last year the United States sent 2 Marshallese to the United Nations.

This year, Heine said, the State Department said there were no funds for such a trip.

## He commented:

"It is our desire to have a representative there. It would be advantageous to the United States especially if Russia accuses America of using our people like guinea pigs for experiments. Who could say it isn't so. After all we are an ally and not an enemy. But apparently they think these naive people might cause embarrassment."

Last year Mrs. Dorothy Kabus, a queen in the Majuro Atoll, and her son,

Amata Kabus, went to the United Nations. The son presently is attending Mauna Loa

College on Maui Territory Hawaii.

Mrs. Kabua was present with Heine during the interview. Others were Atlan Anien, speaker of the Assembly, and Kabua Kabua, president of the House of Irouj (Lords).

The Marshallese are practical people. They recognize that the nuclear tests might have to continue. If this is the case, said Heine, "our petition outlines satisfactory alternatives."





Sacialain No. 29 (AP) The S2 Remedian matters showered by redicautive and from the Barch I hydrogen book explosion call themselves "the poisoned pomise." Join Anjin. 30 year old leader of the Ronamian membe, said the radioactive ash rained does on his recole for 24 hours. "It looked like units," he said in an interview. "It came down like a light rain. You could feel it strike your skin. It is read when it touched unlike the people of Utirik was throught a war had storted, aniin said hie people know what had taken places. He explained "I have seen (explosions) many times before." The libral I explusion in said was the ideaset he had ever vitaessed. Asked to deposition what he sees he said through a matire interpreters. "First was light time the stoles. Scoles went up up and right through closics. Inter hourd and fait blost. Wind so strong some people fall dues. It benned doors," I talked to Anjin and other Rosenian natives in the Sees Mall they are using here on Marialoin until they are taken to Eift in the Main Moll. They will rough at hit for I year until their how Atoll in mote. The Atolic Design Corrigion is building a completely now village for them at Hith. The imphallone are very friendly neople. Then I serived at the ibes this everyone There-from prescriptol and children to old worm-came over and shook hands.

and talked throughout the interview. The Marshalloss people are notes fans.

Taptali each har deverite coper was Jos Louis. The known lot of boring. I like flight." Milhbilly and Reseica ments, they said, were their flowerites. Western medica also are tops with these. One old times said of newlock "like boom known burrer kies kins." In talking to the Rongaley people you really could not help but feel a certain amount of medicas enough them. Asked how the people



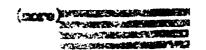
falt about being moved to another Atell, in in mode: "They do not feel good about it. Near may have fate of Midule" 'The Mided posple have been moved from inland to inland are are now on included Mill. Overyone I have talled to pay the Midminus are extremely unlarge about their long. All but 18 of the househap people unifored none injury from the radioactive case. Henry of the harm were only alight. That more confound injury did not come was largely due to the work of 29 year old Jahre, the Remyeley radioal side. Jahre said the most marriag he untited that "the from water fit in contained outside twenty yellow-injuit yellow. I tald people not to upon"

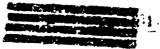
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A semplene landed at the atold the officer day after the blast and the next day a destroyer arrived at the seems to evacuate the people. We started taking showers then," Jahre said. Jahre said there was no panic although "Jone were frightened. By night children were crying. Theny (adults) wore sick." It was about 7 days after the exposure that some natives began losing their heir. I see several who had. Hearly all of them were getting their hair back. One fellow were a red and white baseball cap continuously. Cathlein Buit, a Marshallose murse from Mahuro who was setting as interpreter, confide: "He lost all his hair." Asked how his people felt about their experience, Andin passed and than very solemnly replied: "There is sayer anong some people. I think it will disappear if we get back home. They trust the barriesh people. I like American people." The Songalap leader said that his people had been well taken ours of since their arrival. They have had all the food, clothing, medical care and entertainment they need. Jahre at this point said "I want to thank the Americans for the immediate care they gave us.

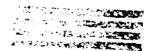
There and said "Almost all the people are cared." I did see one can see see ald the Maril the still had a bad radioactive burn on the set of the right ear. It was a livid red. He said it "barned and itched" continuously. Here was fishing in a cames when the follout occurred. Thirteen Rougelap men left yesterday absert an LST with the Utirik people. They will go to Rougelap to recover some possessions left beaind. The first will return to Rajalain and then the LST will return to Rajalain and then takes the antire group to Sjit. I asked the Anjin and his group if there was any message he or any of his people would like to send to the American people. Anjin thought for a long time and said: "Fleame tall them not to be

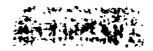




the some thing again — throw the bomb. We didn't do anything wrong.
We didn't hard them." As I got up to leave, each of the natives present
came over and shock hands.

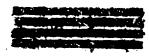
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Majuro, Marshall Islands, May 29 (AP) - Two Marshallese school teachers were the chief drafters of a petition to the UN complaining about hydrogen bomb experiments in their homeland. The pair. Dwight Heine and Atlan Anien, emphatically deny any American knowingly assisted them. "Some did help but they did not know it," Heine said in an inter-"We asked many questions of Americans. We asked who one would view. write to and how it would be addressed but we did not tell them what we were going to do. We also read UN pamphlets and saw how petitions appearing in them were worded." Heine said two Americans saw an early draft of the petition but it carried no heading. He said one, Keith Smith, American manager for Marshallese Trading Company, said "Who wrote it? It is beautifully written." "It taxed me and Atlan to write it," Heine continued. "We worked every day for nearly a month. We would meet with other Marshallese and put down their ideas. Then we would make a rough draft. "I thought we had too many dangers in it. So I looked through the dictionary and decided on lethal. I also found word circumvent as a substitute for prevent." Heine, whose grandfather was German, is bigger than most Marshallese. He is 35 years old, has dark skin and bushy hair. He is superintendent of the Marshall Island schools.

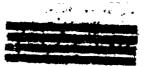
Heine probably is one of the best educated Marshallese. He is the spokesman between the people and Americans. Heine started school in 1928 at the Protestant Jesuit Mission School. In 1936 he went to a mission junior high at Kusaie. When the Americans moved into the Marshalls during World War II he worked for the U.S. Navy as a guide and interpreter. Between 1948 and 1950 he attended the University of Hawaii in Honolulu. Last year he travelled for 3 months in New Zealand, Samoa and Fiji on a UNESCO fellowship. Heine has a sense of humor and timing. He told this story of an American Congressman who visited Majuro and spoke to the people.



He related: "I was interpreting. The Congressman threw his arms out and said we are a Christian people. You are a Christian people. We want to save the world from Communism. We do not want you people to slip behind the Iron Curtain." When I said Iron Curtain the Marshallese looked at each and whispered Iron Curtain. What is that I was really stuck for explaining it. The word Communism means nothing to the people. I now use the word Russia for Communism. "For instance during yourSmith Act trials I'd say Russia explain that these people were trying to steal secrets from American and give them to Russia."

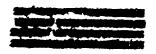
Present with Heine and Anien were Kabuakabua, district judge and president of the House of Irouj, and Doro Sykabus, Queen of the Majuro Atoll and member of the House of Irouj. They gave the impression that they ware as concerned over the loss of land as they were about the hydrogen tests. Doroth, Habua, 55-year-old mother of 4 sons, is a daughter-in-law of a labe whief of the Bikini people. Heine said that the Bikini people had never been paid for the Lagoon. Asked how much she would estimate the Lagoon was worth, Dorothy Kabua replied in Marshallese. Heine tried to give a litterall, reply. She said, "Hard estimate. Islands grow coconuts, bread fruit. The reef has fish. The island home for birds. Money spent use up gone. Laypon gives many, many years life." Dorothy Mabua went to the U.N. last year. She is a short stocky woman, wears glasses and at the time I was talking to her was wearing a light print dress. Asked of her trip to New York she said she went to a 3-D movie. "It was a picture of a boat. It looked like it was coming out on us. It bounced up and down so much I got seasich and had to leave," she related and then laughed heartily.

Heine, whose parents and grandparents were killed by the Japanese, said "We (Marshallese) like the Americans. We petitioned Congress with 2,000 rames to have you (U.S.) stay here." If Heine or his finati workeds

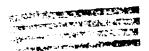


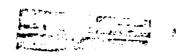
have we regret about the petition sent to the U.N. it is that it might becomerang and hurt the trust territory people. "There was a reason we did not have Americans in on the petition. They are very nice. We did not want them to get in trouble," he explained. Later Heine came to me and said: "We want Mr. (Maynard) Neas (Acting District Administrator) to be District Administrator. If in any way our petition implies lack of confidence in him or the Trust Territory Government say that it is not not so." Heine said that "Everyone (Americans in the Marshalls) sympathize with us. They felt a responsibility for what happened." That is the concensus of what I found in talking to the Americans on the island. Neas, in commenting on the accident, said: "I believe officials of the nuclear tests should have given adequate and timely information to the natives so they could protect themselves. To my knowledge this was not done."

of Foreign Mission, Boston, is on Majuro translating the Bible for the deeply religious Marshallese. He made this comment on the petition: "I think I approve it. Dwight (Heine) is smart. It was a sensible way to handle it as it did not involve (U.S.) Government people. It will help the people here get national consciousness." Doctor Dunham Kirkham of Avoca, New York, a former Army doctor and new the Trust Territory doctor for the Marshall Islands, said of the incident: "It's tough on these people. They seem a little distrustful of our promises. They are thinking of Bikini." Another Trust Territory official who asked that his name not be used said "They're taking a damn dim view of being yenked from one island to another." There seemed to be some concern among the Americans that they too had been kept in the dark about the explosions. One woman said that nearly every American received inquiries about their welfare after



announcement of the explosion. She said her son wrote: "What's going on out there? I don't want radio active parents."





Kwajalein May 30 (AP). The United States pulled all stops in giving aid to 236 Marshallese sprinkled by radioactive ash from the March 1 hydrogen test.

For nearly 10 days I have had a free hand at Kwajalein and Majuro in talking to injured Marshallese, their leaders, military men and Joint Task Force Seven personnel which ran the hydrogen tests this year.

There has been no pressure or coercion on myself or the people I interviewed. All spoke frankly. I came away with this opinion:

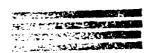
The AEC, the Joint Task Force, the Trust Territory and the Kwajalein

Naval Air Station under command of Rear Admiral R. S. Clarke did a magnificent
job in meeting this unforseen near tragedy.

The question arises why wasn't this possibility forseen. Actually it was, and was quickly detected. Two things contributed to the incident. First, As AEC Chairman Lewis L. Strauss announced the "detonation was larger than expected." It spread over a much wider area as result. Even this would have caused no trouble but a sudden unforeseen shift in high altitude winds carried it over three inhabited ix islands.

Since the March 1 detonation, the AEC has announced two additional tests. The AEC and Department of Defense announced on May 13 that the 1954 tests were concluded.

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## (Note - load paragraphs not received. They will be forwarded when received.)

On subsequent shots in the test series no significant fallout on inhabited sress occurred. The March 1 fallout necessitated the evacuation of eighty—two Rongelap natives, who had the most series harms, 154 from Utirik and 26 U.S. personnel from Rongerik. There were no deaths and none of the people will die from the experience, one officer told me. Clarison got his first tip that something had gone easy from weathermen on the night of March 1. The next day planes landed at Rongelap and Utirik and scientists decided that natives and military personnel should be evacuated immediately. Righ speed destroyer went into action and evacuated all the people. The evacuation was completed in two days and the affected mecha were on Regislain receiving medical assistance.

Top Nevel Medical Research Institute Medical Teams were flown to Majalain from Bathesda, Maryland. They errived here March &. The medical unit returned to the US from Majalain early in May when it became evident that all exposed natives and US personnel would recover without serious consequences. The Americans were transferred to Tripler Army Rospital in Honolulu and Since they have been returned to the U.S. to duty with their perent organisation.

The decision to allow the Utivik people to return to their island immediately and the need to find a temporary home for the Rongalap people for one year was made in April. A survey party visited the two Atolia. It consisted or representatives from Joint Tank Force Sevens Commander in Chief, Bacific Balant; High Consistedoner, Trust Territory of Bacific Islands; the Atomic Contractors (Holmes & Barver) and the native Magnetrates of Compolap and

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Chirit. The Utirik people will be furnished adequate water and food supplies by the U.S. For the next year the Rongalap people will live on Sjit in the Majuro Atoll. They will leave for their new house the first week in June.

The AEC Contractors have constructed an entirely new village of 27 building There will be 16 house with an overall measurement of 16 by 32. There will be a Mess Hall, Cook Shink, Boathouse, School and Dispensory, four latrines and two bath houses and a 10,000 gallon water storage system. Thomas A. Hurdison, AEC resident Engineer and Personal Representative of Charleson, vinited Lijit with up. He said the natives will be permitted to divide the house as they see Mit. Materials and tools for setting up rooms will be left for this work.

The Augulap natives will be returned to their homes as soon as possible and they will be furnished, as in the case of the Utivik rativus, unter and food supplies. Americans in the area falt a personal responsibility for the natives brought to Majalein. They showered then with kindmans. Inc. Larks, wife of the communing officer, rallied wives of level personnel in a clothing drive for the native wome and children. Actually on a station like Rajalein no one has surplus clothes, but its, Clarks and the cities wives gathered more than enough for the invahilance. He can asked them to do it. The med was there and they tackled the jule. All the natives I have talked to have been expisated that their treatment has been the bast. They all say there has been sufficient medical erro, bounted, clothing and food. The invahilance medical aids on Rangalap volunteered this during an interview. I want to thank the American people for the quick medical save.

The grateful Rengalan group jast week entertained Advirol, and Iru. Clarin.



They did notive denote, song timber their native songs and showered its. Clarks with notive jessily.

That the malicul care was ancommon was demonstrated to us by the people ofsuffered harps. I talked to may the had been harms but there were no visible
source. I saw only one was the still had an open would on the back side of
his right ear. In all cases where people lost their hair it is now growing
again. The people from Utirik, when it was determined there were no serious
injuries away them, were moved to Shaye, a small labout connected with
Employing by a road. It untobed them propose to have for their home. They
had been living in a text city. They were taking it beck with them on the last LUT.

The natives and their personal belongings were brought to the LST by leading craft. As they were walking to it from the smaller was craft, a solity bestwarin ante berinds. "All right, let's get some anabidos out there to bely these old follow." The nations seared outs the scaller vessel and literally excried abound some of the egod, faciliar natives. Abound already was marriy low tons of curso for the Utirik natives to take home.

The entires were assigned living quarters in one portion of the ship.

Travelling with them were Jack Tobin, Memballess specifing enthropologist.

For the Treet Corritory, \* Dr. S. H. Minn Riesenbert, staff anthropologist who in on Louve from the University of Smedily and Merion Mike, District Administrat Corresponds time for the Treet Torritory on Ebeys.

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Its that's Thinned Is South, Ire, shipper of the LET had arranged for the own ships cooks to feed the natives during their probable too or three day only about side. The natives, he said, would use the even must half and would in addition to that the even two fed have sufficient fine and rise, two tain items in the Straighton dist.

Unioning the 100 tors of cargo and going to product a problem. The Univide Layron is attained with corel lands, unideng it unuals for a stap that these to extens. The decays is decays in Tilitard, executive efficient, sold the cargo would be looked in small backs and then taken on a seven mile can to their laces inform.

"Even there, he said, we have problems. We can't got the beats any choser than these 35 years of the beach. We will have to use block and tackle and which the staff out of the backs."

Lorders the untives will be pur ashers the ship will send a term of millers ashers to make sure it is suffe.

When the maires pulled out they left beined deep, plus, and elicitem. Trust Territory and military people who have visited the fallends ofner my that the deep have filled out the chickens and reserved to the polf.

They figure that starvetion probably has emead a ver between the hangey dogs and pigs. All will be destroyed as a safety promittee.

The livestock later will be replaced by the ADA.

Before it returns to Emploien the LUT will go to Congolog. There it will let 13 natives go ashers to recover some personal property. The LUT also will

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plok up the schooners belonging to the Sangelap people and transport than to thit.

After talking to the Murchalless I feel that they are not as concerned with the explosions as they are that the tests might was force them to lose their home largeons. The fate of the Mikinians, evicted in 1946 and now un isolated Kili, stands like a ghost over these people.

Find a solution to their lot and that dissertion has risen here against the tests will disappear. The Margialless like Americans, believe re-

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