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U.S. ENERGY RES. ADMINISTRATION
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FM USERBA MW ROGER BAY ASST MGR FOR ENVIRONMENT & SAFETY LAS VEGAS NV
TO USERBA DR WALTER W. WENZEL DRER WASHDC

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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

SUBJECT: SURVEILLANCE OF ENEWETAK PEOPLE.

OUR RECENT DELIBERATIONS CONCERNING THE BROOKHAVEN PRESENCE AT
BONETLAS/UTRIK AND OUR FEBRUARY 4-6 DISCUSSIONS AT KWAJALEIN
LEAVE ME APPREHENSIVE ABOUT THE PROPOSED EXTENSION OF BROOKHAVEN
INTEREST TO ENCOURAGE ENEWETAK ATOLL AND ITS PEOPLE. ALTHOUGH
I HAVE FOR SOME TIME BEEN GENERALLY AWARE OF A PLAN FOR RIGASSY
OF THE ENEWETAK PEOPLE AT THE TIME OF AND SUBSEQUENT TO THEIR
RETURN, THE POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THAT ACTIVITY HAVE ONLY
RECENTLY COME INTO FOCUS.

THE PEOPLE OF ENEWETAK HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR
EARLY RETURN TO JAPTAN ISLAND WILL EXPOSE THEM TO NO RADIOLOGICAL
HAZARD TO THEIR HEALTH. THEY HAVE AGREED TO OBSERVE ALL REQUIRED
RESTRICTIONS ON VISITS ELSEWHERE AT ENEWETAK UNTIL THE RADIOLOGICAL
CLEANUP (OR TIME) PERMITS THOSE RESTRICTIONS TO BE LIFTED. ANY

*2/25 Called Bond and Bay
Suggested they advise Knudsen to postpone
visit.*

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SUGGESTIONS THAT THEY REQUIRE MEDICAL SURVEILLANCE UPON AND AFTER THEIR RESETTLEMENT MUST LEAD TO UNTRUSTWORTHINESS ABOUT THE VALIDITY OF OUR ASSURANCES. AT EIKINI WE HAVE TRIED TO MAKE AND EXPLAIN THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS (LOOKING FOR THE EFFECTS OF RADIATION) AND BIO-ASSAY; ONE OF MANY TECHNIQUES OF ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEILLANCE. THIS DISTINCTION WAS PROVEN TO BE TOO SOPHISTICATED FOR COMPREHENSION BY MOST OF THE PEOPLE WE DEAL WITH IN THE MARSHALLS (AS WELL AS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR). THE UNHAPPY FACT IS THAT WHEN THE BROOKHAVEN TEAM EXAMINES PEOPLE IN THE MARSHALLS THIS IS TAKEN AS EVIDENCE THAT WE EXPECT RADIATION-INDUCED ILLNESS, OR AT LEAST THAT WE ARE NOT SURE.

I DO NOT ARGUE THAT WE SHOULD NOT DO BIO-ASSAYS OF AT LEAST A SAMPLE OF THE RETURNING ENEWETAK PEOPLE. BUT I THINK WE HAVE A BETTER CHANCE OF AVOIDING MISUNDERSTANDING AND CONCERN IF WE DO THIS WITH OTHER THAN BROOKHAVEN AND OTHER THAN MEDICAL PERSONNEL. WE SHOULD ALSO INITIATE IT WITH A CAREFULLY PREPARED AND PRESENTED EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM. AT ENEWETAK WE HAVE BETTER RESOURCES TO CONDUCT SUCH A PROGRAM THAN AT ANY OF THE OTHER ATOLLS. THE PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT OUR LABORATORY AND ABOUT THE FARM ON ENGERBI; THEY HAVE SEEN A FILM IN MARSHALLESE REGARDING THE ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEY OF THEIR ATOLL; THE

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MAN WHO WILL BE THEIR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY (DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR'S REPRESENTATIVE) IS A HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER WHO PARTICIPATED IN OUR TEACHERS MOVEMENT AT EMBETAK LAST SUMMER, AND WE EXPECT TO HAVE A CONTINUING PRESENCE AT EMBETAK FOR AT LEAST THE NEXT THREE YEARS. ONE FINAL POINT. WE HAVE HAD AMERICANS LIVING AND WORKING AT EMBETAK CONTINUOUSLY SINCE THE TEST DAYS - INDIVIDUALS FOR AS LONG AS 16-18 YEARS. YET WE HAVE NOT HAD A BIGASSAY PROGRAM. SOON AFTER THE FIRST CONTINGENT OF EMBETAK PEOPLE RETURNED, THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT WILL EMPLOY HUNDREDS (PERHAPS 800) TROOPS TO EMBETAK. IT IS NOT YET CLEAR WHAT SORT OF BIG-ASSAY PROGRAM FOR THE TROOPS IS CONTEMPLATED, BUT IF IT APPEARS THAT OUR "STUDIOS" ARE CONFINED TO UNCHALLENGED PEOPLE, THE "WHIMPER BIRD" ACCUSATION WILL INEVITABLY REARREAR.

I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT ANYONE FEELS THAT THERE IS ANY URGENCY ABOUT STARTING A BIGASSAY PROGRAM IMMEDIATELY UPON THE PEOPLE'S ARRIVAL. HOWEVER, REGARDLESS OF CURRENTLY PLANS TO INCLUDE EMBETAK IN THE CONTINUING MARCH SURVEY, I BELIEVE THAT THAT WILL NOT OCCUR. I FURTHER BELIEVE THAT WHETHER BIGASSAY PROGRAM IS AUTHORIZED OR DEVELOPED IN COORDINATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, SHOULD IT BE DETERMINED THAT THIS WILL CONDUCT ITS OWN BIGASSAY PROGRAM, CONSIDERATION SHOULD

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BE GIVEN TO ASSIGNING THAT TASK TO THE LAWRENCE LIVERMORE LABORATORY,
WHICH IS ALREADY CONDUCTING A VARIETY OF ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEILLANCE
PROGRAMS AT FENTON. END AME&S:RR

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