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MANUED Manual Administration people of Biking who were allowed by (ERDA), successor to the old Atomic than I Sugaramentation return to the Energy Commission. the Katoll, are absorbing radiation. The people of Bibini were displaced nearly two decades after the United (from the mancatral lands 31 years Statemended its stocke testing (pringraint there, mental tests of hive shown to the mil-

gration back to the hids began five years ago have shown also that the soil and water at Blain contain concentrations of strontium 50, cestum, 137 and plutomany 239 and 240, which are readly absorbed by finit and vegetation.

During the resettlement program,

the population at Edini climbed to as high as 85 persons, but it has since declined to about 60.75

They have been moving off the island because of the concern," said Nathan Note, who as Eikini's "ecribe". is the second highest native official on the island.

"This is not the proudest moment in U.S. history," said one official with the federal Roergy Research and Development Administration

ngo to make room for the first postwar, alomic, bomb tests. Their islands

become part of the Pacific Proving Grottodia. Twent's times increar blasts were set off at Bikini Aloll during the testing program, including the first hychoxen bomb.

We thought we would be back in a year, probably two," recalled Jamore Aiten, who was 38 when the Bikini people were moved in the first of three unsatisfactory resettlement efforts. Now Aitop refers to himself as a "Jojolar," Marshalese, for displaced person. 化物种类物质化物 建氯化丁烷基

The inlanders' hopes were raised in 1968 when Prendent Lyndon B. Johnson announced that most of their atell was safe for human habitation. The return started later, but serious questions have been raised since about levels of radiation at the former testaite

Samplem of blood and rathe from the first residents to return to Bikini, as well as from workers involved in the resettlement program, show the people are absorbing radiation, although the amount and its agnificance are in dispute....

"Notwithstanding" what anyone says about whether or not these levels are scientifically significant, they are not ressuring," said George H. Allen, an attorney who represents the people of Bikini.

A study poblished this January by Plenon Turn to Face 17, Col 1.

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the Lawrence Livermore Laborators tinder afcontract with ERDA EN that well water on Bikini Island, the largest land mass on the 28 islands of the atoli, exceeded federal limits for atmostium 80: + 5: 10 4 5 5 1 1 1 1

miThe Livermore Lab also found that ploses of external radiation to persons diving in houses already built on the deland would amount to about 70% of the 30-year federal guidance limit.

This leaves little margin for additional radiation! doses that may be polentially received by intake of radionucifies via groundwater and various food chains, the study said, It is clear that residents in houses built within the Interior of Bikini Island will receive 30-year exterhal doses exceeding the guide value. entre des recomments de la la commentante de la commentante del commentante del commentante de la commentante de la commentante del commentante del commentante de la commentante de la commentante del commentante de la commentante de la commentante del commen

Although no illnesses due to radia tion have been identified on Bikini, the radionuclides found there have all been associated with various forms of gancer, including leukemia, cancer of !! the bone and of the liver. The long-germ effects of low-level radiation are

not yet well understood.
Federal officials believe, however, that it would be premature to decide a that the islanders should not remain on Bikini...

"It would be a gross injustice to say: in a headling that Bikini is not accepger Hay, amidant manager geri Hay assessing in ERDA'n Neva-vircrimental sufety of ERDA'n Neva-da operations office. Hay is in charge of da operations office hay is in charge of of cleanup operations in the Marshall Islands and has diveloped a close rapport with the people there of the

other atolls in the northern Marshall anen the possible hands 42 3443 A CONTRACTOR OF THE STATE OF TH

E. Resettlement hazards at Bikini may ployed by the Department of Interbe eased. Hay said, once it becomes for Trust Territory government clear what measures the people can paintaid. take to reduce radiation exposure to Instantificant levels when they return. ""But these "options," as federal officials call them, such as not drinking well water; or eating food grown; on Bixtin Island, present enormous so-cial, cultural, institutional, and utilmately political problems for the U.S. government in its role as trustee over Microneda head the sycke sect and

il. The history of the resettlemen; program so far indicates the severity of future obstacles, of general inversely

: When the old Atomic Energy Commission was first consulted about the possibility of allowing people to return to Bikini, it replied that resettlement was possible, but made a number of recommendations: " " " "

According to a sult filed by the BIkini people in federal court in Hawaii,

plantings and be replaced by less radioactive Hands. done, the nut mid by

The AEC wanted ground surround ing houses to be covered with con-ERDA plans to resulvey Bikini and ; and sand taken from less redicoclive areas it also wanted the malegial Islands later this year in an effort to floor slabs, walls and porches and for pinpoint pockets of contamination and cisterns for, water to come from incontaminated Islands of feets Neither of these recommendations was for

> People read the first time of recommendations that each the people could go back. I don't think there was much recognition of or understanding of the rest of the advice, sald Tom P. McCraw, a stall member of ERDA's division of environmental safety. White at We've got to share allog critics blame because we didn't go arrand beating the bushes trains to explain w said Joe Deal, assistant director for health protection with ERDA. We remaking a great deal more effect to go

Deal said the initial resettlemen program had too many i dimb, 34 sumptions," the first being that inside

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The resettlement proceded in cort . Navy press releases and news refer of a patchwork-way, said, Ray, of seports praised the atoll that the people; ERDA. "Never, as far as I'm aware, were being shifted in, Rongerik, an'

fallowing them to remain the have been kind 1000 p pressure. The have been kind 1000 p pressure of Blaim knew belong the most direct But the people of Blaim knew belong the most direct bases and 23 allowing them to remain together 1177

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package for a return.

Even federal officials admit, static about the atomic bomb, which

placed people of Enemitar, who were account in a Honolulu newspaper.

Respective to provide those nd a richellimostica Blin said ail account in the Lee fire-Times. Hongerik is about three times larger than Biking and roughly trian elatively meathy atout thus gular. Coconuts here are three or from pines as large as loose on Film

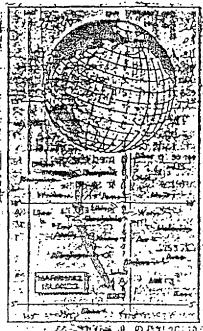
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the people of Blini were told then were loaded about a livy loading the people of Blini were told then were loaded about a livy loading the people of Blini were told then were loaded about a livy loading the period of March 7, 1945 (2013) with nuclear devices that them personal possessions pindana.

Unlike the 200 million cleams proper would be for the good of maniful thatch panels and outrigger cancer.

Relocation was accomplished wildy, and with little planning send "Kiste-"As soon as the people began to milsist on local foods, it became apparent that Rocgerik's resources had peen greatly overestimated min were in laci, inadequate ... - = 1 200

In 1987 a Navy board of Birectingtion found the people were actionally undernourished and low on fresh was ter. The Trust Territory administrahowever, that the plight of the people selready has brought them prosperity them offered to relocate them on Kill of Bikini is more serious than the dis- and a new promising future, said one an island, rather than an atoll, 500 an inland, rather than an aidl, 500 miles to the south. The Hillini council



MIGRATION Maps traces route of hislanders displaced during ruscher; testing program. יים אין ארבנע זייל די לפינעל איי

still hoping to return to its home stoll,

In Harch, 1988, two years after the atomic bomb tests, federal researchers were still unwilling to declare Bikini sale for return. The people from Bilini were moved from Rongerik to a military base at Kwapilein, an atoll about 180 miles to the south, and then to Kill. -- 17 2 18 3 2-119 "

Killy lied some blay disadvantagers whem the re not the Seast of Aprichase thought had them & . & no ligoon of shellered lishing even by Mich depends on the outcome of which meant that centures of saling the serial radiation purper 2222 and fishing stills accumulated by the ERDA intends to correct in the recole of Bikim were useless (12) inc. northern Haraballs this fall and win is It was an agricultural island, a lost fer. The survey will cover Exim an mer copra plantation, about one with, atolls that were hit hy, fallout from the size of Fixing atolk For almost six, the hydrogen bomb lest, for light months out of the year it was cut off "Rongelap, Rongeille and Ulink. from the world by pounding auti-

and hardship; including an air drop of I. Forting trust Aux in 1975 to compenfood without the rad of parachutes, so that most the the food was smashed and rendered inedible. A devastating typhoonism 1957, billed taro and breadfruit and wiped cut a developcutent factions factions to a soot ומים וו דילביר דילהומות מסמטונו ם

Fren powelife on Kill is difficult." pald Allent. There is an 80% positive test rate for TBi with several active cases. The overall standard of living . and well-being on Kill is low. It's a very locally; very bolated place."

-in-children construction of the cressed and the population saelled on Kill, the people of Bikini moved to other places in the Marshalls to an overcrowded island at Kwajalein in hopes of landing a job at the U.S. littssile Range, to the dank back streets of Majuro, the district capital, and to a number of outlying alolls with euphonicus mames, Lae, Alinglapolap and Jaluitan But Man and see these

Now there are more than 700 claimants to the original lands of Bikini, but it is becoming doubtful how or

- h So far; Congress has paid like pecial I - There were periods of starvation - of Bisim \$325,000 in 1965 and \$3 mil salethern for mardian that the

> Allen mid he intends to subfor an - other \$1.5 million to compensate then for the loss of their land over a logic period of time. This still document gree to the first question of companiation for the loss of Elkini Atoll, Higher's that they bow face " be said of all

The biggest lear is that we will be told the whole northern Harshalls in a irradiated,", maid Amatan-Kabam In member of the Micropesian Serute and chairman of the Marshalla Political Status Commission. That would be a tremendous loss, both ecchors, icilly and emotionally , FERDA officials first such an alter native an impossibility, although they ecknowledge that it may take a nelieration to bridge gaps in technology culture and language to convince people that the islands are safe. " "We made a mess there and we're

going to stay and clean it up. Frid ERDA's Joe Deal. Let's face it the people of Bikini were screwed by his

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A-Bomb Still Haunts Atoll a Generation After Tests

People of Biking Absorbing Radiation, Medical Exams Show, Soil, Groundwater Contaminated

BY LARRY PRYOR (14) (14)

MAJURO, Marshall Islands—The people of Bikini, who were allowed by the U.S. government to return to their atoll, are absorbing radiation nearly two decades after the United States ended its atomic testing programs there, medical tests have shown.

Surveys conducted since the migration back to the atolf began five years ago have shown also that the soil and water at Biking contain concentrations of strontium 90, cesium 137 and plutonium 239 and 240, which are readily absorbed by fruit and vegetation.

During the resettlement program, the population at Bikini climbed to as high as 85 persons, but it has since declined to about 60.

"They have been moving off the island because of the concern," said Nathan Note, who as Bikini's "scribe" is the second highest native official on the island.

"This is not the proudest moment in U.S. history," said one official with the federal Energy Research and

Development Administration (ERDA), successor to the old Atomic Energy Commission.

The people of Bikini were displaced from their ancestral lands 31 years ago to make room for the first post-war atomic bomb tests. Their islands became, part of the Pacific Proving Ground!

Twenty-three nuclear blasts were set off at Bikini Atoll during the lesting program, including the first hydrogen bomb

"We thought we would be back in a year, probably two," recalled Jamore Altap, who was 38 when the Bikini people were moved in the first of three unsatisfactory resettlement efforts Now Altap refers to himself as a "jojolar," Marshalese for displaced person.

The islanders hopes were raised in 1968 when President Lyndon B. Johnson announced that most of their atolf was safe for human habitation. The return started later, but serious questions have been raised since about levels of radiation at the former test site.

Samples of blood and mine from the first residents to return to Bikini, as well as from workers involved in the resettlement program, show the people are absorbing radiation, although the amount and its significance are in dispute.

"Notwithstanding what anyone says about whether or not these levels are scientifically significant, they are not reassuring," said George M. Allen, an attorney who reoresents the people of Bikini.

A study published this January by Please Turn to Page 17, Col. 1



LOS ANGELES TIMES, MONDAY, JULY 4, 1977

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Continued from First Page the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory under a contract with ERDA found that well water on Bikini Island, the largest land mass on the 26 islands of the aloll, exceeded federal limits for

in The Livermore Lab also found that idoses of external radiation to persons living in houses already built on the island would amount to about 70% of the 30-year federal guidance limit.

"This leaves little margin for additional radiation doses that may be potentially received by intake of ra-.dignuclides via groundwater wand Various food chains, the study said. "It is clear that residents in houses built within the interior of Bikini Island will receive 30-year external doses exceeding the guide value. minutes companyation of the destinant

Although no illnesses due to radia tion have been identified on, Bikini, the radionuclides found there have allbeen associated with various forms of cancer, including leukemia, cancer of the bone and of the liver. The long-Herm effects of low-level radiation are: mot yet well understood.

Federal officials believe, however, that it would be premature to decide, That the islanders should not remain on Bikini.

👸 "It would be a gross injustice to say: in a headline that Bikini is not acceptable as a residence island," said Ro ger Ray assistant manager for environmental safety at ERDA's Nevada operations office, Ray is in charge of cleanup operations in the Marshall Islands and has developed a close rapport with the people there.

ERDA plans to resurvey Bikini and other atolls in the northern Marshall Islands later this year in an effort to pinpoint pockets of contamination and assess the possible hazards 的是自然是对自然的推断的特殊的

Resettlement hazards at Bikini may be eased, Ray said, once it becomes for Trust Territory government, the clear what measures the people can take to reduce radiation exposure to insignificant levels when they return. But these "options," as federal officlais call them; such as not drinking well water or eating food grown on Bikini, Island, present enormous so-cial, cultural, institutional, and ultimately political problems for the U.S government in its role as trustee over

Micronesia and the resettlement program so far Indicates the severity of future obstacles, which will be said

When the old Atomic Energy Commission was first consulted about the possibility of allowing people to return to Bikini, it replied that resettlement was possible, but made a number of recommendations.

kini people in federal court in Hawaii,

the AEC recommended that soil b removed from areas surrounding food plantings and be replaced by soil from less radioactive islands. This was not done, the suit said:

The AEC wanted ground surround ang houses to be covered with coral and sand taken from less radioactive areas. It also wanted the material for floor slabs, walls and porches and for cisterns for water to come from uncontaminated Islands of reeis Neither of these recommendations was followed by the Department of Interior suit said.

"People read the first line of the recommendations that said the people could go back. I don't think there was much recognition of or understanding of the rest of the advice, said Tom F McCraw, a staff member of ERDA's division of environmental safety. We've got to share allot of the blame because we didn't go around beating the bushes trying to explain," said Joe Deal, assistant director for health protection with ERDA; "We're making a great deal more effort to go around and make sure people know what we're saying.".

Deal said the initial resettlement. program had too many "dumb, as-According to a suit filed by the Bi-sumptions," the first being that island

Please Turn to Page 18, Col. 1

I. II..

Continued from 17th Page residents would not eat the fruit on the maturing trees, even though there was no guarantee of an ample supply of imported food

Reports from Bikini indicate that during the last year; there has been almost a replay of the first book of Genesis. "They were told not to eat the pandanus and breadfruit; but some of the people are eating these things. I guess the temptation is too great," said Oscar deBrum, administrator for the Trust-Territory's Marshall Islands district:

2017年12日本和基本改革法 Unlike the \$20 million cleanup program and \$12 million resettlement program that Congress authorized last year for the people of Enewetak, another atoll that was heavily radiated from weapons testing, the program. for the people of Bikini has been at best, piecemeal. best, piecemeal.

of a patchwork way, said Ray, of ports praised the atoll that the people; ERDA. "Never, as far as I'm aware, did an agency of the United States go ; over to Congress and present a total package for a return."

Even federal officials admit,

however, that the plight of the people of Bikini is more serious than the displaced people of Enewetak; who were a account in a Honolulu newspaper.

sent to a relatively nearby atoll, thus allowing them to remain together:

The Bikini people have been less fortunate. "They are the most disples, said their attorney, George Al-len. This dispersion, he said, has made function as a community.

Their hardships started with the misunderstanding that they were and many species of lish in the lagoon giving up their atoll to the Navy in were unaccountably tonc. 1946 for only a short while.

atoll was needed by scientists for experiments; with nuclear devices that them personal possessions; pandanus would be for "the good of mankind thatch panels and outrigger canoes. and to end all wars." 🥕

The military governor told the peopley who were deeply committed to Christianity, that they were like "the children of Israel who the Lord saved from their enemy and led from the Promised Land." At a poor as a le ារបស់ស្រាស់ នៅ មើ

"The resettlement proceded in sort ... Navy press releases and news rewere being shifted to, Rongerik, an uninhabited atolt about 120 miles to the east of Bikini and the control of the control o

🚉 "The natives are delighted, enthuand a new promising future," said one

"Rongerik is much more beautiful? and isi a richer island than Bikini said an account in the Los Angeles Times. "Rongerik is about three times. larger than Bikini and roughly triangular. Coconuts here are three or four times as large as those on Bikini and food is plentiful."

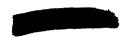
But the people of Bikini knew betpersed of all the Pacific Island peo ter. Bikini had 26 islands and 2.32 square miles of land, while Rongerik. had 10 islands with 0.17 square miles; it extremely difficult for them to of land. There was a reason that it .was uninhabited.

"It was associated with evil spirits.

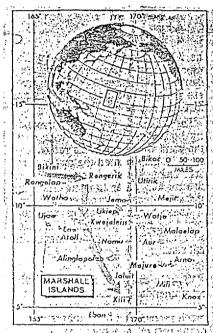
起其常出著的基 Anthropologist Robert C. Kiste said Eleven families—about 170 persons the people of Bikini were told their were loaded aboard a Navy landing craft on March 7, 1946, taking with - Jamore Altap said they had been given about a week to pack. 🖫 🔠

"Relocation was accomplished swiftly and with little planning," said Kiste: "As soon as the people began to subsist on local foods, it became apparent that Rongerik's resources had been greatly overestimated and were, in fact, inadequate $\mathcal{L}_{vertile}$

In 1947 a Navy board of investigation found the people were seriously; undernourished and low on fresh wasiastic about the atomic bomb, which the ter. The Trust Territory administraalready has brought them prosperity wition offered to relocate them on Kili? an island, rather than an atoll, 500 miles to the south. The Bikini council,



LOS ANGELES TIMES, MONDAY, JULY 4, 1977



MIGRATION—Maps traces route not bislanders w displaced. during nuclear testing program. Solding OV- & HODDOTIMes map -

still hoping to return to its home atoll, refused.

In March, 1948, two years after the atomic bomb tests, federal researchers were still unwilling to declare Bikini safe for return. The people from Bikini were moved from Rongerik to a military base at Kwajalein, an atoll about 180 miles to the south, and then to Killi. Tower or any secretary -

Kili had some big disadvantages: not the least of which was that it had turn. no lagoon or sheltered fishing area; Much depends on the outcome of which meant that centures of sailing the aerial radiation survey that and fishing skills accumulated by the ERDA intends to carry out in the people of Bikini were useless

It was an agricultural island, a former copra plantation, about one-sixth the size of Bikini atoll. For almost six months out of the year it was cut off. from the world by pounding surf

There were periods of starvation and hardship, including an air drop of Alion in a trust fund in 1975 to compenfood without the aid of parachutes, so that most of the food was smashed and rendered inedible. A devastating typhoon in ~1957 killed taro and breadfruit and wiped out a development program es delegane soldies persident

"Even now, life on Kili is difficult," said Allen. "There is an 80% positive test rate for TB, with several activecases. The overall standard of living and well-being on Kill is low. It's a

Over the years, as hardships increased and the population swelled on Kili, the people of Bikini moved to: other places in the Marshalls: to an overcrowded; island 'at: Kwajalein; in hopes of landing a job at the U.S. Missile Range, to the dank back streets of Majuro, the district capital, and to a number of outlying atolls with euphonious names, Lae, Alinglapolap and Jaluitana tanka gaman ayan garat

Now there are more than 700 claimants to the original lands of Bikini, but it is becoming doubtful; how or when the rest of the people will re-

northern Marshalls this fall and winter. The survey will cover Bikini and atolls that were hit by fallout from the hydrogen bomb test, including Rongelap, Rongerik and Utirik.

So far: Congress has paid the people of Bikini \$325,000 in 1956 and \$3 milsate them for hardship and his water the

Allen said he intends to ask for another \$1.5 million to compensate them for the loss of their land over a long period of time. "This still does not get , to the-final question of compensation for the loss of Bikini Atoll, if that is what they now face," he said a said

"The biggest fear is that we will be told the whole northern Marshalls are irradiated, said Amata Kabua, a member of the Micronesian Senate and chairman of the Marshalls Political Status Commission. "That would be a tremendous loss, both economically and emotionally

ERDA officials find such an alternative an impossibility, although they acknowledge-that it may take a generation to bridge gaps in technology,? culture and language to convince people that the islands are safe: 🦠 🤄

"We made a mess there and we're going to stay and clean it up," said ERDA's Joe Deal. "Let's face it, the people of Bikini were screwed by history; but it wasn't deliberate!