

402255

REPOSITORY DOE/PASO
COLLECTION DOE/NV
BOX No. 1228, ERDA #3
BIO-MED Dr. Conard
FOLDER OLTHAU 12/1966

HO:WAB-2703

December 20, 1966

R

Honorable William R. Norwood
High Commissioner
Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands
Saipan, Mariana Islands

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Dear Mr. Norwood:

I am sorry I was away from my office when you telephoned me during your recent visit in Honolulu. I had looked forward to meeting you and discussing subjects of mutual interest. Mr. Blankenship and Mr. Rasmussen informed me you may return in February and perhaps will have an opportunity to come to our office for a visit. I certainly hope it will be possible for you to do so.

I was also informed you felt some urgency in resolving the question of rehabilitating Bikini since you are faced with the question of re-locating the former Bikini residents now living on the island of Kili. We have made inquiries through various AEC and Department of Defense channels and although our information is not conclusive, reports from the AEC indicate the prospects for reoccupation of Bikini in the near future are not very good. We have been informed that the most recent radiological data for Bikini Atoll were taken in August 1964. A 350-page report, much of which is pertinent to discussions regarding reoccupation of Bikini is in reproduction and will be completed next month. We will make arrangements for you to receive a copy of the report. As to the possibility of DOD releasing control of Bikini, we are not in a position to speak for that agency. However, we will pass on to you any information we are able to obtain in this regard.

Some time ago Dr. Conard of our Brookhaven Laboratory requested we obtain permission to give two of the five former AEC buildings on Utiirik to the people there for building materials. Since the Defense Atomic Support Agency in a letter to the Trust Territory Government, dated August 16, 1963, transferred the buildings on the six weather/rad-safe sites to the Trust Territory, it appears this request should have been directed by the Utiirik residents to your office. We have no use for the two buildings and are quite agreeable to your making them available to the residents of Utiirik. With regard to the other three buildings on Utiirik we herewith formally request they

OFFICE ▶	MGR	ADM			
SURNAME ▶	Bonnet <i>WAB</i>	Blankenship <i>WAB</i>			<i>Bonnet</i>
DATE ▶	12/20/66 <i>7/40</i>				

5052044

December 20, 1966

be retained for use by the AEC Medical Survey Team. As you are aware, DASA continues to have land leases on a number of sites including the land occupied by the three buildings we wish to retain on Utirik. Should DASA decide to give up its leases, this office will continue to pay rental on the site occupied by the three Utirik buildings. We would also expect to enter into a formal lease arrangement for this property should DASA give up its leases.

The cooperation of your office in returning the Marshallese patient to her home on Rongelap in mid-October is very much appreciated. As soon as Mr. Heine has notified Dr. Conard of a firm February sailing date for a ship to Rongelap, we will probably request your assistance in obtaining an SA-16 seaplane about February 28, 1967, and again about two weeks later for the Medical Survey Team.

Your interest in our problems and your cooperation are very much appreciated and we assure you we shall continue to maintain an active interest in the welfare of the people of the Trust Territory.

Very truly yours,

ORIGINAL SIGNATURE
WILLIAM A. BONNET

William A. Bonnet
Manager

cc: Dr. Conard, Upton, L.I. New York
James E. Reeves, Mgr. USAEC, NVOO

PRIVACY ACT MATERIAL REMOVED

5052045

BATE NUMBER

505204

INADVERTENTLY SKIPPED