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FOLLOWING IS QUOTED FROM A MICRONESIAN NEWS SERVICE RELEASE FILED FROM HERE MARCH 17.

'MNS ENEWETAK MARCH 16, EVERY SILVER LINING HAS A GRAY CLOUD.

A PARTICIPANT IN YESTERDAY'S RETURN OF THE ENEWETAK PEOPLE

TO THEIR ANCESTRAL HOME EXPRESSED ONE RESERVATION ALONG WITH

HIS FEELING OF ELATION. THAT PERSON WAS REPRESENTATIVE ATAJI

BALOS, 38, OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA WHO REPRESENTS NOT

ONLY THE PEOPLE OF ENEWETAK AND UJELANG BUT THOSE OF BIKINI,

KWAJALEIN, RONGELAP AND UTERIK.

BALOS SPEAKING TO THE PRESS AFTER THE LUAU IN HONOR OF THE RETURNEES SAID THAT HE HOPES THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL HAVE A PROGRAM OF PERIODIC MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS FOR THE ENEWETAK PEOPLE.

HE SAID THAT THE "US HAS GAINED MUCH SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE BECAUSE OF THE TESTING AND SO IT SHOULD BEAR THE

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PAGE 2 RUHHDNA 1683 UNCLASO 11335

ON THESE ISLANDS."

BALOS NOTED THAT BECAUSE OF FALLCUT FROM BIKINI TESTS,

THE PEOPLE OF RONGELAP AND UTERIK WERE STILL AFFECTED AFTER

TWENTY YEARS. SAID BALOS, " I AM NOT A SCIENTIST BUT WHO

KNOWS WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN THE FUTURE."

LPON LEARNING OF THIS RELEASE (WHICH I OBTAINED FROM PRIVATE SOURCE) I SOUGHT A MEETING WITH CONGRESSMAN BALOS. DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR DE BRUM AND I CONFERRED WITH HIM FOR AN HOUR ON MARCH 17.

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I FIRST EXPLAINED THE QUALITATIVE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE 1954 EXPERIENCE OF THE UTERIK/RONGELAP PEOPLE AND THE LOW LEVEL CHRONIC EXPOSURE INCIDENT TO RESETTLING AN ISLAND OR ATOLL WITH SLIGHTLY ELEVATED BACKGROUND.

I FURTHER EMPHASIZED THE EXCEPTIONALLY LOW RADIATION LEVELS HERE ON ENEWETAK (ON THE ISLANDS DESIGNATED FOR EARLY RESETTLEMENT).

BALOS SEEMED TO ACCEPT THIS AND TO BE REASSURED, ALTHOUGH HE IS ABOUT AS EXPRESSIVE AS THE SPHINX.

PAGE 3 RUHHDNA 1683 UNCLAS

EXAMINATION AND MEDICAL RESPONSIBILITY. I TOLD HIM QUITE
BLUNTLY THAT WE DO NOT EXPECT ANY RADIATION-INDUCED MEDICAL
PROBLEMS AMONG THE RETURNEES, AND THAT IF WE DID WE WOULD
HAVE MOST STRONGLY OBJECTED TO THEIR RETURN. (NOTE HERE THAT
CONGRESSMAN BALOS IS MOST LIKELY THE ORIGINATOR OF THE TERM
"GUINEA PIG" AS APPLICABLE TO ERDA'S MARSHALL ISLANDS MEDICAL
PROGRAM). I THEN EXPLAINED THAT WE HAVE MAE A DELIBERATE
DECISION NOT TO EXTEND THE BROOKHAVEN MEDICAL SURVEILLANCE
TO THE ENEWETAK RETURNEES TO AVOID MISUNDERSTANDING AND

CONGRESSMAN BALOS REPLIED TAT HE FELT THAT WE (US GO SHOULD RECOGNIZE THE SPECIAL NEEDS, SPECIAL DEPENDENCY ETC.,

OF THE PEOPLE OF ENEWETAK AND OUR SPECIAL OBLIGATION TO

THEM BECAUSE OF THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE U.S.

AS AN INDIVIDUAL, I ACKNOWLEDGED THESE THINGS BUT POINTED OUT

THAT IT TAKES LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY (AND FUNDS) TO DO WHAT

HE ASKS; VIZ "BEAR THE RESPONSIBILITY IF SOMEONE BECOMES

ILL..." NEANWHILE (THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR AGREED), HEALTH

CARE OF THE ENEWETAK PEOPLE IS A TRUST TERRITORY RESPONSIBILITY.

PGE 4 RUHHDNA 1683 UNCLAS

I THEN TURNED TO THE MATTER OF PERIODIC "MEDICAL" EXAMINATIONS AND EXPLAINED THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN EXAMINATION FOR MEDICAL INDICATIONS AND BIO-ASSAY AS A TECHNIQUE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEILLANCE. THIS IS A VERY DIFFICULT CONCEPTUAL DIFFERENCE, BUT I TRULY BELIEVE THAT BALOS UNDERSTOOD IT; AT LEAST HE SAID SO.

OUR CONVERSATION ENDED CORDIALLY, AS HAS EVERY CONVERSATION OVER 5 YEARS. I MAY HAVE IMPROVED HIS UNDERSTANDING, BUT DON'T HOLD YOUR BREATH FOR ANY SORT OF RETRACTION OR CLARIFICATION OF HIS PRESS STATEMENT.

FULL PRESS STATEMENT WILL FOLLOW BY MAIL.

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