

REPOSITORY DOE/PASO
COLLECTION DOE/NV
BOX No. 1227; "ERDA#2"
BIKINI SURVEY (Bio-med)
FOLDER MAY-1969

405581

2 MAY 1969

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MEMORANDUM FOR: THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
THE SECRETARY OF INTERIOR
CHAIRMAN, ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

SUBJECT: Status Report, Cleanup of Bikini Atoll (U)

1. References:

a. Presidential letter for Secretary of Interior, dated 12 August 1968, subject: Resettlement of Bikini Atoll.

b. Presidential letter for Secretary of Defense, dated 12 August 1968, subject: Resettlement of Bikini Atoll.

c. Presidential letter for Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission, dated 12 August 1968, subject: Resettlement of Bikini Atoll.

d. Director, Joint Staff Memorandum 140-69 for Director, Defense Atomic Support Agency, dated 30 January 1969, subject: Bikini Atoll, DOD Support for Clearing Operation.

e. Memorandum of Understanding between Defense Atomic Support Agency and Atomic Energy Commission, dated 11 February 1969, subject: Cleanup of Bikini Atoll.

2. Reference a requested the Department of the Interior to develop a program to resettle the former natives of Bikini who desire to do so in their traditional home, and references b and c requested the Department of Defense (DOD) and Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) to work with the Department of Interior and the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory, Pacific, as necessary to assist in accomplishing the resettlement. The DOD and the AEC agreed jointly to undertake to clear Bikini Atoll of residuals from its test use which could be hazardous

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to the natives or interfere with their agricultural use of the land, as a prerequisite to resettlement, and references d and e designated Director, Defense Atomic Support Agency (DASA) as the DOD and AEC Project Manager for this operation. Funding in amounts of \$300,000 each from AEC and DOD were provided to support cleanup operations commencing in FY 1969, with \$700,000 to be provided by the Department of Interior in FY 1970 to complete this task.

3. A combined military and civilian-contractor Task Group under Commander, Joint Task Force EIGHT (JTF-8), DASA, comprising 23 men with equipment, landed on the Atoll by ship on 18 February 1969 and began the cleanup operation. By 23 February an air strip was operational and certified for Military Airlift Command flight operations.

4. The Bikini Task Group currently comprises a total of 40, of whom 17 are military. The work is proceeding satisfactorily. As of now it is approximately 25% complete, which is sufficient to afford a realistic appraisal and definition of the overall task. No significant operational difficulties have been experienced and none are forecast. A detailed listing of known cleanup items, with planned disposition, is being prepared as a basis for inter-agency concurrence on the completion of the AEC-DOD tasks. Present estimate is that the latter can be completed by October 1969 if the necessary additional funds in the amount of \$700,000 are available by 1 July 1969.

5. Specific comment on the funding situation and requirements will be the subject of separate correspondence.

L. M. MUSTIN
VADM, USN
Director

CF:
ATSD(AE)
Chairman, JCS
AGMIA/AEC