

OCT 17 1979

Mr. M. J. Cifrino
Office of Assistant General Counsel
for Intelligence, International
and Investigative Programs
Department of Defense
Washington, D. C. 20301

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Dear Mr. Cifrino:

This is in response to your request made during the meeting of July 16 re long-range plans and costs in the Pacific.

I must, of course, refer you to Mrs. Clusen's letter of June 21, 1979, to Mr. Richard Stone, so that the cost estimates discussed in that letter and in what follows do not assume importance beyond their value.

The primary question asked of us was the anticipated cost to the U.S. should the peoples of other atolls be included in the medical program or in the monitoring program. After looking at this in several ways, it appears that the easiest way to estimate this is to compare the additional load with the current base program.

Medical

If the peoples of additional atolls are to be included in the medical care program approximating the current level of care of the Rongelap and Utirik people, it is estimated that operational expenses (including ship support) would approximate \$750,000 for every 200 persons added to the program. Population estimates for the most frequently mentioned atolls, and the approximate associated annual cost estimates, based upon the above cost factor, follow:

Likiep	600 persons	\$2.3 M
Wotje	340 persons	\$1.3 M
Ailuk	430 persons	\$1.6 M
Mejit	350 persons	\$1.3 M
Enewetak	450 persons	\$1.7 M

(Bikini - included in the letter of June 21)

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Mr. M. J. Cifrino

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These cost estimates are based upon 1979 dollars and should be scaled by an appropriate factor if the peoples are entered into the program in some other year.

As previously noted, even a moderate increase in the work load per the letter of June 21, 1979, would require access to a new vessel. Although the cost of a new vessel was estimated in the previous letter to be \$1,500,000-\$2,000,000, the actual cost may in fact be closer to \$3,000,000. If the above atolls are added to the current base load, the adequacy of a single ship is highly questionable. Should the program be expanded to this level of effort, it would be essential either to utilize additional ships or to consider alternate methods of logistical support such as aircraft and atoll-based facilities. Costs for such alternative support mechanisms cannot be estimated at this time.

Monitoring

Having just completed a multi-million dollar radiological survey of thirteen atolls in the northern Marshall Islands, the results of which will not be complete for more than a year, it is not anticipated that further efforts of this magnitude will be necessary. Furthermore, except for the physical decay of the radionuclides present, it is not expected that levels of radioactivity will change significantly. Therefore, it appears that there would be little to be gained by relatively frequent periodic radiological surveys of the same atolls.

Should additional atolls be added to the baseline effort identified in the letter of June 21, 1979, however, it is estimated that about \$200 K (1979 dollars) per atoll per year might be required. Since the monitoring and medical efforts share certain logistics such as ship support, any increased work load in monitoring of additional atolls will again bring into question the adequacy of a single ship, the adequacy of present logistical arrangements, and the need for a new ship.

We trust that these cost estimates will be regarded as extremely tentative since circumstances beyond our control may strongly influence both direction and scope of the programs, and the requisite level of funding required to adequately meet U.S. obligations and responsibilities.

We trust that this additional information is responsive to your needs.

- bcc: R. Clusen, ASEV
- H. Hollister, ADASEV
- L. Brothers, ADASEV
- W. Weyzen, OHER
- R. Watters, OHER
- T. McCraw, OESD
- F. Wolff, OESD
- J. Deal, OESD
- D. Mayhew, DFS

Sincerely,

Bruce W. Wachholz, Ph.D.
Office of Environment

OESD
Wolff
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