

Those Listed Below



June 21, 1954

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Rodney L. Southwick, Acting Director
Division of Information Services

SIXTH ASSOCIATED PRESS ARTICLE ON MARSHALLESE

SYMBOL: ISP:RLS

Attached for your information is the sixth in a series of articles on the Marshallese. It has been approved and returned to Associated Press with modifications noted. It was reviewed by State, Defense and Interior as well as AEC staff.

Attachment:
Copy of sixth article

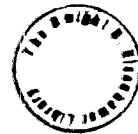
Addresses:
John Hall, Special Projects
Capt. Curtis, DIA
Dr. Bugar, E&M
Herschel Schooley, DOI
W. Yewans, Dept. of Interior

SEP 10 1954

CC: I. Wechsler, USL
Col. Hirsch, OCS

Handwritten notes: (175/100/100) (175/100/100)

NOT TO BE REPRODUCED



Majuro, June 10 (AP) — The Marshall Islands Hold Over Committee disclosed today it has written a letter to Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr., that the "people are not yet ready" there will be no more airships as followed the March 1 hydrogen explosion.

The March 1 explosion was followed by a thick cloud of radioactive cloud. More than 200 natives on Rongelap and Rongerik had to be evacuated from their homes. Some were burned and the Rongerik people will not be able to return to their home for a year.

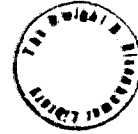
The Rongelap people arrived yesterday at the new homes built on Ejit Island, adjacent to Majuro. Over the 4,000 natives from the Majuro Atoll were on hand to greet them and help them get settled in the village built by the Atomic Energy Commission.

The Hold Over Committee, under the leadership of the chairman, sent a position direct to the United Nations yesterday, stating that the nuclear tests in the Marshall Islands are a violation of the 1946 agreement.

Dwight Heine, spokesman for the committee, said that the committee would not withdraw the petition until the United States Trust Territory High Commissioner agrees to withdraw the tests. He said they are satisfied with what had been promised.

In a quick visit to the committee today, Heine said what he said would be a satisfactory reply to the letter which left Majuro by plane yesterday, following the petition.

The letter sent to the Marshall Islands today, said: "Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge, Junior, United States, steps to the United Nations,



Dear Sir: Our High Commission, Grant, 1, 1961, advised us on the twenty-first of May, concerning the members of the United States Congress Holdover Committee and other Marshallese leaders who have signed the petition that we have sent to the United Nations recently. He explained the importance of the thermonuclear experiments which were carried out in these islands, but also assured us that the authorities in charge are doing everything humanly possible to prevent the recurrence of such a disaster. Your reply to the Marshallese petition was also read by the people and translated into our language. The people are assured that their rights will be taken away for experimental purposes and everything possible will be done to prevent the recurrence of such a disaster that they will be compensated fairly for their losses.

The Marshallese people appear to be glad for what the United States Government has received and their good opinion and commendation of our petition reinforce our faith in the United States Administration.

In conclusion we wish to say that in no way should our petition -- direct to the United Nations -- be interpreted as a sign of our lack of confidence in the officials of the United States. On the contrary, we have found them competent and trustworthy. It is to be done the same thing under any administration or administration. The seriousness of the problem itself is a daily responsibility for us to be taken. Sincerely, Members of the Marshallese Congress Polonius and others. The letter was sent to Midkiff for relay to the U.S.