

MD-5-3

1968-70 Secretary

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MD-5 3 Radiation

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Mr. Edward J. Bauser
Executive Director
Joint Committee on Atomic Energy
Congress of the United States

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Dear Mr. Bauser:

The Atomic Energy Commission plans to cooperate with the Departments of the Interior and Defense on the cleanup of the Bikini Atoll. This is in compliance with the President's instructions of August 12, 1968, that the three agencies, Interior, Defense, and AEC, cooperate in effecting the return of the Bikini people to their home atoll. A copy of Interior's Bikini Resettlement Program is enclosed for your information.

The Department of the Interior has formally requested the AEC and the DOD to jointly undertake the cleanup effort embodied in the Bikini program. This effort includes the removal of test-related structures and debris which are contaminated or unsafe and the clearing of vegetative overgrowth. The AEC and the DOD have agreed to contribute \$300,000 each to permit start of the cleanup project in the fourth quarter of fiscal year 1969. The Interior's fiscal year 1970 budget request of \$1,700,000 for Bikini includes funds to complete the cleanup job and to make a start on the coconut replanting and facilities construction projects.

The AEC will be responsible for the radiological health and safety aspects of the program. DOD has informally expressed a desire to manage the cleanup efforts utilizing the existing Joint Task Force Eight organization relationships with the AEC including H&N contractor support. The AEC has no objections with this arrangement providing the total AEC costs do not exceed \$300,000.

Please let me know if you need any additional information on this matter.

- so&cc: Addressee w/encl
- 2cc: Chairman
- cc: Comm Ramey
- cc: Comm Tape
- cc: Comm Johnson
- cc: Comm Costagliola
- 2cc: Secretariat
- 2cc: OCR
- cc: EAGM
- cc: DGM
- cc: CM
- Enclosure:
- Bikini Resettlement Program

Sincerely,

(Signed) Edward B. Giller

Edward B. Giller
Major General, USAF
Assistant General Manager
for Military Application

5cc: Std DMA

MA:Tests

AGMMA

OCR

NOTE: For enclosure see AEC 604/117.

AAGomes/jwg

EBGiller

1/30/69

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