

Subject: Eniwetok

Cdr. Richter:
The following was provided the Gov
by Dr. Biles. CAPT. Ghy was given a
copy. Apparently he was satisfied (also Mr. Rosey)
that this represented sufficient notice to the Commission

FILE: Eniwetok
Mr. McClaw

MAR 17 1972

REPOSITORY DOE HISTORY DIVISION
COLLECTION R6326 Tommy McCaw Job # 1326
BOX No. 5
FOLDER Organization

Hugh Leenhouts
Office of the General Manager

ITEMS FOR GENERAL MANAGER'S INFORMATION MEETING

R

Staff of AEC and Defense Nuclear Agency, IEA, met with Ambassador Franklin Williams, the President's personal representative for Micronesia Status Negotiations, on March 16, 1972, to discuss the rehabilitation of Eniwetok Atoll. Ambassador Williams is now studying the position to be taken on Eniwetok at the next session of negotiations scheduled for April 2, 1972. The military requirement for the Atoll will be ended this summer with completion of the PACE experiments, a series of high explosive tests on islands near former nuclear test sites. The discussions revolved around the current condition of islands in the Atoll, what is known and not known about possible radiological problems, the magnitude and cost of cleanup of the Atoll, the sequence of events required to rehabilitate the atoll, and the current attitude and likely reaction of the Eniwetok people. The approach being considered is to announce in April that Eniwetok is to be released and returned to the former residents without setting a time for their return. Ambassador Williams and the other attendees recognized that as with Bikini Atoll, there must be a cleanup of the islands of Eniwetok including removal of contaminated scrap and re-planting of coconut trees. The cost is expected to exceed the cost for cleanup of Bikini Atoll wherein AEC and DOD each provided \$500,000 and DOI \$700,000. Ambassador Williams stated he will begin to investigate the problem of finding the necessary funds and would go as high as needed to get support. Also, he contemplates a meeting with the Eniwetok people at Ujae Atoll in the near future to discuss with them actions being taken to return their atoll and to obtain their assistance and cooperation. Because of the pressures being applied by the Eniwetok people, Ambassador Williams hopes that the necessary steps to perform the radiological survey and cleanup of the atoll can be compressed in time compared to Bikini where five years have passed before the islands were ready for return of the people. Both AEC and DOD can expect a request to participate in the survey and cleanup activity. IEA would serve as lead agency for the cleanup operation.

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ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
GEORGE E. KLEY