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SEP 29 1978

VADM R. R. Monroe, USN
Director, Defense Nuclear Agency
Washington, D.C. 20305

Dear Admiral Monroe:

This is a followup to your recent call to Dr. Liverman and our subsequent telephone conversation about the delay in planting coconut trees on the Northern Islands of Enewetak.

A copy of the August 18 TWX to NV in response to the August 9 TWX that relayed the H&N question is enclosed. We do not recommend planting any coconuts on the Northern Islands this planting season.

1. We have made an island-by-island comparison of the cesium concentration in Enewetak soil as contained in the NVO-140 report and the cesium and strontium concentrations in the soil of Bikini and Eneu Islands. All the Northern Islands at Enewetak Atoll exceed the Bikini and Eneu Islands levels.
2. We are concerned about a second problem with the coconuts which deals with the amount of contamination in the copra products. Some studies of this problem are just beginning. LLL will be studying where the cesium goes in samples that are run through a copra processing plant. We cannot recommend planting coconuts until we are certain the contamination will not become a problem for commercial utilization of copra products. Therefore, we believe it is not prudent to plan on planting coconuts in the Northern Islands this growing season.

The enclosed table contains recommendations on the islands which can be planted. We will cooperate in any way possible with the staff study that is underway as a result of your TWX of Sept. 25, 1978, in examining possible alternative locations for planting the coconuts.

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WADM R. R. Monroe

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We plan to discuss this matter in detail with Dr. Bair's committee at their next meeting.

Sincerely,

L. Joe Deal
Assistant Director
for Field Operations
Division of Operational
and Environmental Safety

Enclosures:
As stated

cc w/enclosures: R. Van Cleve, DOI
R. Ray, NV
A. Winkel, TT
O. DeBrun, Marshall Islands
E. Gilmour, H&N

OES:ADFO
LJDeal/nr

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September 28, 1978

ENEWETAK PLANTING RECOMMENDATIONS

<u>Location</u>	<u>Planting Recommendations</u>
Enjibi	No
Medren	Yes
Enewetak	Yes
Japtan	Yes
Runit	No
Alembel	No
Aomen	No
Bijire	No
Jojwa	No
Lujor	No
Aej	No
Ananij	Yes
Kidrinen	No
Mijikadrek	No
Bokenelab	No
Elle	No
Kidrenen	Yes
Ribewon	Yes
Boken	Yes
Niut	Yes
Ikuren	Yes

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