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SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
 Washington, D.C. 20560
 U.S.A.

April 4, 1968

Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg
 Chairman
 Atomic Energy Commission
 Washington, D. C. 20545

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Dear Glenn:

Recently it was brought to my attention that consideration is being given to the establishment of human populations on Bikini, Marshall Islands. I was pleased to learn that past radioactivity concerns are nearly alleviated and that the Island may be near recovery from the severe strains of nuclear testing.

I was reminded that during the period 1959-1962 the Smithsonian Institution was given funds by the Atomic Energy Commission and the Office of Naval Research to identify, preserve, and store the recoverable portion of an excellent but scattered collection of marine organisms made in 1946, prior to the Nuclear Test Program. We were able to achieve a substantial portion of this objective and our collections now are richer with comparative material.

May I suggest that consideration be given to the mounting of an expedition to Bikini to re-collect the marine fauna and flora and that the Smithsonian Institution be again supported to develop a national study resource of pre- and post-nuclear test material? If this seems reasonable, I would suggest that contact from your staff could be made with Dr. I. E. Wallen, Head, Smithsonian Office of Oceanography and Limnology.

With highest regards,

Cordially yours,

S. Dillon Ripley
 Secretary

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