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September 23, 1966

King Judah
c/o Mr. Delight Heine
District Administrator
Majuro, Marshall Islands

Dear King Judah:

It was a pleasure to talk to you just before I left Majuro two weeks ago. I also wish to thank you again for the beautiful handbags and other gifts presented to us. These arrived here in perfect condition. Mrs. Norwood and I are both very grateful for your generous consideration.

I told you I would try to develop some answers for you in connection with your questions regarding the possible return to Bikini or the selection of some other island to which some of the Rili people might be moved. I am very pleased to report that it may be possible to resettle Bikini in the not too distant future. I cannot tell you precisely when this could occur. I obtained this information today from Mr. Neil S. Rasmussen of the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission. Mr. Rasmussen told me that the Atomic Energy Commission scientists have decided that Bikini is now ready for human habitation once again. The decision is not yet official and final so please do not construe my letter as indicating your people can move back to Bikini immediately. Much planning and preparation will have to be made if and when we work out the arrangements with the AEC. I will keep Mr. Heine advised on this and I am sure that he will keep you informed.

Inasmuch as it appears that Bikini may shortly be available for resettlement, I think we should probably defer a search for another island until we know more definitely when a return to Bikini by your people could be undertaken.

It should be understood in this connection that if and when we are ready to repopulate Bikini, we would want to make sure that there are adequate facilities there and that we have developed plans for an orderly and attractive community. We would expect to do this in consultation with

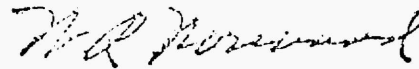
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King Judah
Page Two

September 23, 1966

the people who would want to return. It might take some time to obtain the necessary funds and to develop proper plans. I hope you will find this information useful and may I again caution you not to interpret this as meaning that an immediate return to Bikini is in prospect.

Sincerely yours,



W. R. Norwood
High Commissioner

cc: Mr. Dwight Heine
Distad-Majuro, Marshalls

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