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 BOX No. 1228, "ERDA #3"  
BIO-MED, DR. CONARD  
 FOLDER 01 THRU 12/1968

June 6, 1968

HOA:WKS-906

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Mr. Donald R. Tindal, Attorney General  
 United States Department of Interior  
 Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands  
 Office of The High Commissioner  
 Saipan, Mariana Islands

Subject: LEASE AGREEMENTS FOR UTIRIK AND RONGELAP SITES

Dear Mr. Tindal:

I have received your letter dated May 24, 1968 in connection with the status of the leases of the above subject and I am indeed very sorry to hear that the execution of the lease agreements is not proceeding as well as anticipated.

As you may know, the subject sites have been utilized as places to conduct the AEC medical examinations of certain Marshallese natives. These examinations have been going on for the past 14 years and it is expected they will continue for sometime to come. These limited facilities on both Rongelap and Utirik are considered necessary in continuing the medical surveys and it is most desirable to have leases allowing the use of the sites and to provide a method to pay for the use of the areas on which the facilities are located.

We here in Honolulu are also handicapped by being a considerable distance from Majuro and not receiving our information first hand. It has been my understanding that the relationship between the AEC and the Rongelapese was in good standing for continuance of the annual surveys. It came as a surprise that this relationship had deteriorated to the point you indicated in your letter. Hopefully, these feelings as expressed to the District Administrator by Senator Kabua are somewhat enlarged and can be arranged.

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OFFICE	A & T	A & T	A & T	MANAGER		
SURNAME	WKS [Signature]	J Dryden	WB Hillis	WABonnet		
DATE	6/6/68	6/6/68	6/6/68	6/6/68		

D. R. Tindal

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June 6, 1968

While I have no personal knowledge of any feelings between the AEC Medical Team and the Marshall Islands Import and Export Company (MIECO), the Team Leader, Dr. Conard, did express dissatisfaction with the condition of the MIECO Ship, *Ralik-Ratak*, used during the last survey. I believe any alleged criticism by the Medical Team of MIECO may be magnified by the distances involved as I am sure the team recognizes the value of MIECO as a source of supply in the Marshalls. I do know that in the past the AEC has made prompt payment to MIECO through the Trust Territory for services rendered to the survey team. However, sometimes the invoices are subject to considerable delay in being submitted to the AEC. As a matter of fact, we just received on June 5, 1968 the MIECO invoice in the amount of \$2,406.22 dated March 25, 1968 covering the use of the M/V *Ralik-Ratak* during the February/March medical survey. A check to cover this invoice will be mailed to MIECO on June 6, 1968.

Hopefully, the lease problems can be resolved when Senator Kabua visits Saipan the latter part of June. In the meantime, if we can give you any additional assistance in obtaining leases for the Utirik and Rongelap sites, please contact me immediately. In this connection I would appreciate your suggestions if you feel it advisable for us to contact Senator Kabua to attempt to assist in resolving the lease problems.

Your efforts in attempting to finalize the lease arrangements for these sites is very much appreciated.

Very truly yours,  
Original Signed by  
W B. HILLS

William A. Bonnet  
Manager

cc: Dr. J. R. Totter, USAEC, Wash., D.C., w/cy of TT ltr.  
Dr. R. A. Conard, NNL, Upton, NY., w/cy of TT ltr.  
Mr. J. E. Reeves, USAEC, NY., w/cy of TT ltr.

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