

**Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT**

**TO :** Brig. Gen. K. E. Fields, Director, DMA, ABC  
Washington, D. C.

**DATE:** AUG 21 1952

**FROM :** Carroll L. Tyler, Manager, SFOO, Albuquerque

103582

**SUBJECT:** NECESSITY FOR BEGINNING WORK AT BIKINI ATOLL

**SYMBOL:** PG-1-958

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Reference is made to the "Report on Auxiliary Proving Ground in the Marsnall Islands," dated August 1, 1952, prepared by Holmes & Narver, Inc., a copy of which is in your files. Additional reference is made to the now pending revised budget for 1953 and 1954, which embraces construction and testing at Bikini Atoll.

Regardless of the final scope of work to be accomplished at Bikini, if Bikini is to be used at all, it is necessary that certain work at this site be initiated not later than October 1, 1952, if we are to have any hope of meeting the proposed date for Operation Castle. The items of work which we think must be accomplished during such a "beachhead" phase are as follows:

1. A reconaissance of the site must be made at an early date by engineering and construction personnel of Holmes & Narver and this office. This trip will be arranged for by the Field Manager, Eniwetok Field Office, after his arrival in the forward area about September 1, 1952.
2. One IST should be assigned to this job to leave Eniwetok on October 1, 1952, with an advance party of approximately 75 Holmes & Narver men. This IST would be used for housing during the initial phase but should be assigned to the project on an indefinite basis. The initial trip from Eniwetok would carry not only personnel and subsistence supplies, but a minimum amount of construction equipment and supplies, together with four LCM's and four DUKW's for intra-atoll marine transportation during the beachhead phase.
3. The operational islands must be cleared and surveyed rapidly to permit the location and later erection of installations such as housing, messing facilities, power and water supplies, etc.

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4. Boat channels must be located, cleared, and buoyed, and piers and landing ramps must be constructed.
5. A satisfactory source of coral aggregate must be located and the production of aggregate initiated immediately in order to provide materials for construction of the C-47 air strip on Bikini, to begin by November 1, 1952.
6. The initial force of 75 men should construct very temporary camp facilities to provide for the housing of approximately 175 men by November 1, 1952. At such time the IST can be released from housing duty and will serve to shuttle additional supplies, materials, and personnel, as required, from Eniwetok Atoll.
7. Air transportation will be necessary prior to the completion of the Bikini air strip. During the initial period three trips per week by flying boats between Eniwetok and Bikini should suffice if provision can be made to pick up sick or injured persons on relatively short notice. Such air transportation should be arranged for by CJTF 132.
8. Engineering design for the temporary base facilities at Bikini should be initiated immediately so that procurement of materials may be initiated at an early date.

It is to be noted, of course, that the approved 1953 budget contains no item for work at Bikini. Your attention is invited to the fact that the proposed Bikini construction, with the possible exception of the powerhouse on Bikini, is temporary and operational in nature. It is requested, therefore, that approval be given for this office to use operational funds already appropriated for the 1953 budget for this initial beachhead phase of engineering and limited construction. Such funds are not subject to the current appropriation rider governing the start of a new construction project.

DOE ARCHIVES

Your concurrence in this matter is requested, and, if given, it is requested that CJTF 132 be asked to initiate immediate action to provide for the assignment of an IST and the flying boat support during the beachhead phase.