



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
OFFICE OF TERRITORIES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

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March 21, 1969

Memorandum

To: The Under Secretary

From: Commissioner for Public Affairs, Trust Territory of  
the Pacific Islands

Subject: Ujelang

The following is an addendum to my memorandum of this date and is forwarded at the suggestion of your Secretary, Mr. Boyd Gibbons.

I feel that the requests of the Ujelangese are justified and in order. Accordingly, I would like to recommend the following:

1. We establish "a fair land value" for Eniwetok Atoll, using \$1,000 per acre and deducting a limited amount of acreage in consideration for their present occupancy on Ujelang. We arrive at a figure in the vicinity of \$1,250,000 (approximately 1,250 acres).

The Ujelangese do not expect to receive this money. Merely the income (annual) from this amount. The principal, therefore, could be invested and eventually used for rehabilitation of the Eniwetok Atoll or for some other purpose.

2. I would recommend that a trust fund be established and that the Congress of Micronesia be listed as the trustee or one of the trustees. It would be up to the trustee or trustees to see that the funds (as provided for in item 1) be suitably invested and guarantee the Ujelangese a fair annual return. This would permit the Micronesians to control the destiny of this fund, and would tend to tie the Congress of Micronesia to any future problems and make them a party to same.

3. I can offer very little advice in regard to the expected date of return. If it is possible for the United States to give a definite date at this time, I would urge that we do so. If it is impossible, and I suspect this will be the case, I would strongly urge that we tell them very firmly that we are in no position to promise them any definite date of return, and that they should not expect us to do so now. By so doing, we would indicate to them that they are to cease thinking about return and concern themselves more with immediate problems.

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4. I feel that the United States Government has quite rightly established a precedent (in the case of Bikini) and should agree to rehabilitating Eniwetok Atoll. It is obvious to any one who has seen this atoll that it cannot support an indigenous population in its present state and would, of necessity, have to be rehabilitated before the Ujelangese could return. I feel that this request is justified.

5. I feel also that their petition for the continuance of "our yearly annual income" until Eniwetok has been completely rehabilitated and restored to its previous condition is also justified, and it might be possible, during the latter stages of this program, to reduce same, as they return to Eniwetok and become more self-sufficient. In any case, this "yearly annual income" should be terminated once Eniwetok has been completely rehabilitated and our program there terminated.

6. During December of 1967, there were approximately 300 men working on Eniwetok as a part of our installation there. These men are presently employed by Kentron and in most cases they are highly skilled technicians. Unskilled and/or semi-skilled laborers are necessary in order to support this staff, and I feel that these jobs could be offered to "working males" on Ujelang -- some 40 to 50 in number. There is, in my opinion, no reason why these men could not be used in the kitchens, laundries, yard and general maintenance, etc., and used in six-month shifts -- half working one six-month period while the other "working males" remain on Ujelang, and then reversing this process by returning the first group to Ujelang and bringing those previously utilized on Ujelang to Eniwetok for a second six-month period.

One of the objections to this is the security problem, but we have certainly met this on Kwajalein and are meeting it day in and day out in South Viet Nam, and I frankly feel that there is every justification in considering this very logical and practical request. This would give the people of Ujelang additional annual income and make them feel as if they were directly contributing to their future well-being.

All of these matters have been discussed with the Department of Defense through their various representatives and I am quite certain that they too are working on this problem and would hope that we could coordinate our activities and work with them for an early and fair conclusion.

  
N. Neiman Craley Jr.