

## PROPOSED Q&amp;A ON BIKINI ISLANDERS

Q. Can the natives be returned to Bikini now?

A. No decision on that question has been made yet. An inter-agency team of scientists visited the atoll last year and collected considerable raw data on the current conditions there. That material is being analyzed now. The ultimate decision is not AEC's alone, however. The Department of the Interior's Trust Territories Office, the State Department and the Defense Department are also involved. There is, however, a good deal of sympathetic interest within the government with the natives' desire to return.

- - -

Questions on the current status of the Bikini Islanders and on the choice of Kili and the history of the move should be referred to the Trust Territories Office in the Interior Department.

5005234

*D/C. Navy - R. ...*

932