



INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

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In reply refer to:

I-810/69

28 JAN 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

SUBJECT: Bikini Atoll, DOD Support for Clearing Operation

The President, on 12 August 1968, requested both the Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission, and the Secretary of Defense to work with the Secretary of the Interior and the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory in planning a comprehensive resettlement program for Bikini Atoll and to assist them in carrying it out.

Subsequently, the Department of the Interior requested the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) and the Department of Defense (DOD) to jointly undertake the task, commencing in FY 1969, of removing vegetative overgrowth, debris, and structures or materials residual from the use of the Atoll for atomic testing which could pose radiation or accident hazards to the population or interfere with their reasonable use of the land. The Department of the Interior has agreed to the above delineation of the task; however, certain decisions as to the removal of noncontaminated structures and foliage remain unresolved at this time. Interior also requested the AEC and DOD to fund the cleanup costs that would be incurred in FY 1969, assuming commencement of work in the current fiscal year. Interior advised that it had requested an appropriation by Congress for the balance of funds needed to complete the cleanup task in FY 1970 and to pay for airlift; upon receipt, these funds will be made available to AEC/DOD or their designated agent for this project. Neither DOD nor AEC have budgeted any funds for this purpose in FY 1970. The Atoll, under DOD jurisdiction in accordance with an existing Use and Occupancy Agreement with the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory, has not yet been formally released to the Trust Territory Government.

The Secretary of Defense has authorized the obligation of not in excess of \$300 thousand from the FY 1969 DOD Contingency Fund to cover the

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AUTHORITY: DOE/SA-20

BY H.R. SCHMIDT, DATE:

HR Schmidt 6/9/94
ASD 6/15/94

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DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
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DOD share of FY 1969 cleanup costs, and the AEC will provide a like amount. It is anticipated that the DOD share will be turned over to the AEC in the near future; however, until this had been done, DOD funds will not be available for use.

You are requested to designate the Director, Defense Atomic Support Agency (DASA) as the DOD Project Manager for assisting, as authorized, in the Bikini cleanup. Based on informal discussions and understandings with concerned offices and agencies of the government, the following guidance pertains to this assignment:

a. The Project Manager (DASA) will act for both the Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission, and the Secretary of Defense in accomplishing this project. Additional considerations which are to govern the conduct of the project and relations with the AEC are contained in the attachment. An implementing agreement should be negotiated promptly between DASA and the AEC based on existing organizational relationships and use of civilian contract support. This agreement should be coordinated with my office prior to signing.

b. The Project Manager is authorized to conduct direct liaison with the AEC, the Trust Territory Government, the Department of the Interior, the military services, and other concerned offices and agencies of the government, keeping my office informed as appropriate.

c. Policy matters falling outside the premises contained in this memorandum and its attachment will be referred to my office for decision.

PREP: Cdr EAKuhn/OSD/ISA/EA&PR/typed 27 Jan 69/jad/59282

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SIGNED
Ralph Earle II
Principal Deputy

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