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REPLY VIA AIR MAIL TO Marshalls Office

April 17, 1974

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Chairman Dixy Lee Ray
United States Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D.C.

RE: BIKINI ATOLL

Dear Chairman Ray:

As I believe you know, the People of Bikini atoll, and the magistrate and councilmen of that atoll, have asked Micronesian Legal Services to act on their behalf in a variety of matters. Generally speaking, we are dealing with problems stemming from their removal from Bikini atoll many years ago, and from the impending return to a partially rehabilitated Bikini.

In the past two years, we have been only minimally involved on behalf of the Bikini people in matters concerning residual radiation at Bikini. As the date for eventual return to Bikini moves closer, it is increasingly apparent to us that there are unanswered questions concerning the residual radiation at Bikini. Perhaps the AEC does not find numerous unanswered questions, but it is clear that neither the Bikinians nor their counsel have sufficient data and/or opinions, upon which to make intelligent decisions and important choices. In considering the radiation situation, it appears to us that the major areas of concern are as follows:

1. What document, memo, or report, from the AEC or from other sources, says that Bikini atoll is now safe for full time human habitation? We have a copy of "The Report of the Radiological Clean-Up of Bikini Atoll" by Allan E. Smith and William E. Moore, published in January, 1972. However, this report does not ade-

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Mr. Dixy Lee Ray

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quately deal with the potential problems of human habitation at Bikini. It does contain a short, 2 page, section entitled "summary and recommendations" which comments briefly on the advisability of human habitation at certain points on the atoll. These conclusions and recommendations are apparently based primarily on data obtained from portable gamma survey meters which indicated readings from less than 5 micro r/hr. to over 700 micro r/hr. at various points in the atoll.

This report makes reference to a 1967 Ad-hoc Committee which evaluated the radiological hazards of resettlement of Bikini. We presume that this committee made extensive written findings, conclusions, and recommendations. May we please have a copy of their report, and of any reports updating or altering their conclusions? Are there other reports or memoranda from AEC or other sources, which make recommendations about human habitation at Bikini? If so, will you please send us a copy?

On the same topic, we understand that several years ago, Tom McCraw, head of the AEC's Division of Operational Safety, made a trip to Kili Island to discuss radiation with the Bikini people. Memories have faded considerably, however, and no one with whom we have discussed this visit can remember exactly what was said or even the general tenor of the advice given. If there are substantial radiation hazards at Bikini, and significant advisory measures that need to be followed by the people, perhaps it would be a good idea to have a repeat visit by Mr. McCraw sometime shortly after the people have been resettled. In any case, it would be helpful for us to have copies of any transcripts, notes, or reports stemming from the earlier visit by Mr. McCraw to Kili.

2. A second major concern is the quality of the past radiological surveys of Bikini. We understand that the Division of Biology and Medicine of the AEC did radiological surveys of Bikini in 1964 and 1967. Did these surveys collect a sufficient quantity of data to permit truly reliable recommendations? Our understanding of the 1972-73 Enewetak Radiological survey leads us to believe that instrumentation, detection equipment, and sampling techniques have all improved considerably since 1964 and 1967. Do you believe that it is advisable to have an updated radiological survey of Bikini, to take advantage of technological advances, and to take a greater number of soil and biota samples than was taken in 1964 and 1967?

3. A related concern is the apparent lack of data from Bikini that will allow reliable estimates of internal dosages. At least we have not seen any reports that indicate detailed sampling, or indeed any significant sampling, of edible fish and plant material from Bikini atoll. Have such samples, in sufficient quantity, been taken? If so,

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