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U.S. ENERGY RES & DEV  
ADMINISTRATION  
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FM R.RAY/USERDA/ENEWETAK M I

TO RHEGGTN/WALTER WEYZEN/DBER/USERDA/WASHINGTON D C

INFO RHEGNVO/MANAGER/NVO USERDA/LAS VEGAS NEVADA

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FOLLOWING IS QUOTED FROM A MICRONESIAN NEWS SERVICE RELEASE  
FILED FROM HERE MARCH 17.

"MNS ENEWETAK MARCH 16, EVERY SILVER LINING HAS A GRAY CLOUD.  
A PARTICIPANT IN YESTERDAY'S RETURN OF THE ENEWETAK PEOPLE  
TO THEIR ANCESTRAL HOME EXPRESSED ONE RESERVATION ALONG WITH  
HIS FEELING OF ELATION. THAT PERSON WAS REPRESENTATIVE ATAJI  
BALOS, 38, OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA WHO REPRESENTS NOT  
ONLY THE PEOPLE OF ENEWETAK AND UJELANG BUT THOSE OF BIKINI,  
KWAJALEIN, RONGELAP AND UTERIK.

BALOS SPEAKING TO THE PRESS AFTER THE LUAU IN HONOR OF THE  
RETURNEES SAID THAT HE HOPES THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL HAVE  
A PROGRAM OF PERIODIC MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS FOR THE ENEWETAK  
PEOPLE.

HE SAID THAT THE "US HAS GAINED MUCH SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE  
BECAUSE OF THE TESTING AND SO IT SHOULD BEAR THE

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*W. Weyzen*  
*Info*

ON THESE ISLANDS."

BALOS NOTED THAT BECAUSE OF FALLCUT FROM BIKINI TESTS, THE PEOPLE OF RONGELAP AND UTERIK WERE STILL AFFECTED AFTER TWENTY YEARS. SAID BALOS, " I AM NOT A SCIENTIST BUT WHO KNOWS WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN THE FUTURE."

UPON LEARNING OF THIS RELEASE ( WHICH I OBTAINED FROM PRIVATE SOURCE) I SOUGHT A MEETING WITH CONGRESSMAN BALOS. DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR DE BRUM AND I CONFERRED WITH HIM FOR AN HOUR ON MARCH 17.

I FIRST EXPLAINED THE QUALITATIVE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE 1954 EXPERIENCE OF THE UTERIK/RONGELAP PEOPLE AND THE LOW LEVEL CHRONIC EXPOSURE INCIDENT TO RESETTLING AN ISLAND OR ATOLL WITH SLIGHTLY ELEVATED BACKGROUND.

I FURTHER EMPHASIZED THE EXCEPTIONALLY LOW RADIATION LEVELS HERE ON ENEWETAK (ON THE ISLANDS DESIGNATED FOR EARLY RESETTLEMENT).

BALOS SEEMED TO ACCEPT THIS AND TO BE REASSURED, ALTHOUGH HE IS ABOUT AS EXPRESSIVE AS THE SPHINX.

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I PROCEEDED TO DISCUSS OUR POSITION REGARDING MEDICAL EXAMINATION AND MEDICAL RESPONSIBILITY. I TOLD HIM QUITE BLUNTLY THAT WE DO NOT EXPECT ANY RADIATION-INDUCED MEDICAL PROBLEMS AMONG THE RETURNEES, AND THAT IF WE DID WE WOULD HAVE MOST STRONGLY OBJECTED TO THEIR RETURN. (NOTE HERE THAT CONGRESSMAN BALOS IS MOST LIKELY THE ORIGINATOR OF THE TERM "GUINEA PIG" AS APPLICABLE TO ERDA 'S MARSHALL ISLANDS MEDICAL PROGRAM). I THEN EXPLAINED THAT WE HAVE MADE A DELIBERATE DECISION NOT TO EXTEND THE BROOKHAVEN MEDICAL SURVEILLANCE TO THE ENEWETAK RETURNEES TO AVOID MISUNDERSTANDING AND

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CONGRESSMAN BALOS REPLIED THAT HE FELT THAT WE (US GOV) SHOULD RECOGNIZE THE SPECIAL NEEDS, SPECIAL DEPENDENCY ETC., OF THE PEOPLE OF ENEWETAK AND OUR SPECIAL OBLIGATION TO THEM BECAUSE OF THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE U.S. AS AN INDIVIDUAL, I ACKNOWLEDGED THESE THINGS BUT POINTED OUT THAT IT TAKES LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY (AND FUNDS) TO DO WHAT HE ASKS; VIZ "BEAR THE RESPONSIBILITY IF SOMEONE BECOMES ILL..." NEANWHILE (THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR AGREED), HEALTH CARE OF THE ENEWETAK PEOPLE IS A TRUST TERRITORY RESPONSIBILITY.

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I THEN TURNED TO THE MATTER OF PERIODIC "MEDICAL" EXAMINATIONS AND EXPLAINED THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN EXAMINATION FOR MEDICAL INDICATIONS AND BIO-ASSAY AS A TECHNIQUE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEILLANCE. THIS IS A VERY DIFFICULT CONCEPTUAL DIFFERENCE, BUT I TRULY BELIEVE THAT BALOS UNDERSTOOD IT; AT LEAST HE SAID SO.

OUR CONVERSATION ENDED CORDIALLY, AS HAS EVERY CONVERSATION OVER 5 YEARS. I MAY HAVE IMPROVED HIS UNDERSTANDING, BUT DON'T HOLD YOUR BREATH FOR ANY SORT OF RETRACTION OR CLARIFICATION OF HIS PRESS STATEMENT.

FULL PRESS STATEMENT WILL FOLLOW BY MAIL.

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