

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
5408 SEPULVEDA BOULEVARD
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA 90230

402942

de Young

TELEPHONE
(213) 390-7860

RONALD G. BAKAL
JUDY ALTAGEN BAKAL

November 15, 1976

Fred M. Zeder
U.S. Dept. of the Interior Rm 4312
Washington D.C. 20240

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Re: Our Client: People of Utiirik Atoll, Marshall Islands
Negligence - March 1, 1954

Dear Sir:

This office has been retained by the People of Utiirik Atoll, Marshall Islands, United Nations Trusteeship, to seek compensation on their behalf for damages they have suffered as a result of the negligence of the United States Government in the detonation of a nuclear device on March 1, 1954.

For the last 22 years our clients have suffered from the effects of their exposure to radiation with only token compensation and periodic medical treatment which can only be described as experimentation. Along with the high degree of thyroid tumors, including malignancy, among the exposed population, evidence has been detected that second generation children are being genetically afflicted. Besides the direct physical damage, the entire population of the atoll suffers from the emotional and psychological effects of the expectation of continuing health problems. Your agency should be well aware of the environmental impact the radiation has had upon the flora and fauna of Utiirik Atoll. Now that the former residents of Bikini Atoll have been compensated for their property losses by Congressional action, it is time that the people of Utiirik Atoll shall be compensated for the loss of life, continuing diseases, threat of disease, altered environment and the humiliation of being treated as human guinea pigs.

There are still 40 persons alive in the exposed group living on the Atoll. This office now demands that each and every member of that group be compensated in the sum of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) for physical and psychological injury. Further demand is made on behalf of all other inhabitants of the Atoll in the sum of Sixty Million Dollars (\$60,000,000.00) for psychological, emotional and environmental damages.