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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
TELECOMMUNICATION MESSAGE

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6. FROM DR. BRUCE WACHHOLZ
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENT
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20545

7. 
(Signature of authorizing official)

8. DATE MAY 25, 1979

9. TO

MARSHALL ISLANDS ADVISORY GROUP
(SEE ATTACHED LIST FOR ADDRESSEES)
FOLLOWING IS UPDATE ON MARSHALL ISLANDS ACTIVITIES:
1) MRS. CLUSEN (VIC BOND, TOMMY MCCRAW, WALTER WEYZEN, BILL BROWN AND I), MRS. VAN CLEVE (AND STAFF), ADMIRAL MONROE (AND STAFF) MET FOR 3-1/2 HRS. ON MAY 16 WITH MARSHALL ISLANDS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION (TONY DE BRUM - VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE MIPSC; HENCHI BALOS - MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR THE BIKINI PEOPLE; ATAJI BALOW - MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR THE PEOPLE OF KWAJALEIN; THEIR PSC ATTORNEY - RICHARD COPAKEN; ATTORNEY FOR THE BIKINI PEOPLE - JONATHAN WEISGALL; AND COUNSELOR TO THE ENEWETAK, RONGELAP AND UTIRIK PEOPLE - TED MITCHELL. MAJOR TOPICS INCLUDED:
A) AS A RESULT OF FILES RECENTLY ENTERING INTO THE HANDS OF THE NEW MARSHALLESE GOVERNMENT AND OF OBSERVATIONS AND INQUIRIES MADE BY THEM, THE MARSHALLESE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE PEOPLE OF LIKIEP INCLUDED IN THE NEXT MEDICAL SURVEY.

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B) APPARENTLY A NAVAL VESSEL OR RAD SURVEY TEAM VISITED LIKIEP WITHIN DAYS OF THE MARCH 1, 1954, BRAVO TEST. THEY WOULD LIKE THE FINDINGS RESULTING FROM THAT VISIT. (BNL MAY HAVE THE REPORTS AND ARE LOOKING. THE NAVY HAS BEEN CONTACTED, BUT THE ABOVE INFO IS NOT MUCH TO GO ON.)

C) THE MARSHALLESE WOULD LIKE FALLOUT INFORMATION (AND DOSE ESTIMATES) FOR LIKIEP, WOTJE, MEJIT, ETC., IN 1954.

D) THE BIKINIANS HAVE BEEN LED TO BELIEVE THAT RETURN TO ENEU IS A REAL POSSIBILITY. IF SO, OR IF NOT, THEY WOULD LIKE A DEFINITIVE LETTER FROM INTERIOR.

E) APPARENTLY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER DECIDED THAT ONE OR TWO ISLANDS PREVIOUSLY NOT CONSIDERED CONTAMINATED ARE CONTAMINATED AND THEREFORE NOT POSSIBILITIES FOR BIKINI RESETTLEMENT. TO AN UNKNOWN EXTENT THIS WAS BASED ON OES AERIAL SURVEY DATA AND CONTOURED ISLANDS, EACH ISLAND BEING LETTERED ACCORDING TO DOSE RATE. THE H.C. APPARENTLY CONSIDERED ANY ISLAND WITH LETTERS AS BEING CONTAMINATED AND DECREED ACCORDINGLY. ASIDE FROM BEING ERRONEOUS, THIS HAS CREATED GREAT DISCONTENT AS EVIDENCE OF U.S. "HIDING" INFO AND OF ADDITIONAL ISLANDS BEING DISCOVERED AS CONTAMINATED. ISLAND RADIO AND NEWSPAPERS APPARENTLY HAVE CARRIED THE STORY. INTERIOR STATED THAT NEITHER DOE NOR DOI HAD MADE ANY RECOMMENDATION RE THIS MATTER AND WOULD TRY TO RESOLVE ISSUE, BUT THE PERCEPTIONS OUT THERE HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED AND THE U.S. (AND DOE) IS AGAIN SUSPECT.

2) AT THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL MEETING THIS WEEK AT THE UN, THE MARSHALLESE REQUESTED: A) THE RIGHT TO SELECT THEIR OWN CONSULTANTS TO REVIEW U.S. DATA (E.G., 13-ATOLL SURVEY) AND TO REVIEW ALL MEDICAL INFO AND TO PROVIDE INDEPENDENT MEDICAL EVALUATION AND ADVICE, AND

B) THAT THE U.S. FUND ANY/ALL SUCH ACTIVITIES. WHILE NOT DEFINITE, MARSHALL ISLANDS GOV'T PROBABLY WOULD LOOK FOR U.S. EXPERTISE; OTHER POSSIBILITIES INCLUDE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL MEMBERS (E.G., U.K., FRANCE, U.S.S.R.), OTHER THIRD COUNTRIES, OR THE W.H.O. APPEALS TO U.S. CONGRESS ARE EXPECTED. HOW THIS RELATES TO THE OMNIBUS TRUST TERRITORY BILL (BEING SENT TO YOU) WHICH PASSED THE HOUSE AND IS IN THE SENATE IS YET TO BE DETERMINED.

3) PRIOR TO THE MEETINGS DOE SENT ITS STATEMENT ON ENEU TO INTERIOR. A COPY IS BEING SENT TO YOU. BECAUSE OF TIME CONSTRAINTS IT WAS REVIEWED BY BAIR AND HEALY, PLUS HOLLISTER, MCCRAW, ETC.

4) EPA LETTERS AND STATEMENTS RE ENEWETAK ARE BEING SENT TO YOU UNDER SEPARATE COVER.

5) LLL IS SENDING ME THEIR DRAFT OF THE ENEU DOSE REASSESSMENT REPORT, WHICH SERVED AS THE BASIS OF OUR LETTER TO INTERIOR. PER DR. BAIR'S REQUEST THIS WILL BE SENT TO YOU FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT BEFORE PUBLISHING.

6) THE ENEWETAK ASSESSMENT IS LIKELY TO SLIP. TED MITCHELL WANTS HIS DIET SURVEY INFORMATION TO BE CONSIDERED, IF NOT USED, IN CALCULATING THE DOSE ASSESSMENT. HE HAD INDICATED THAT LLL WOULD HAVE IT ON OR ABOUT MAY 10. SUBSEQUENT DATES WERE TIED TO THE MAY 10 DATE. MITCHELL DID NOT MEET THAT DATE. LLL RECEIVED THE INFO LATE ON MAY 21. CONSEQUENTLY ALL RELATED DATES MAY SLIP BY UP TO TWO WEEKS ALTHOUGH EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO MINIMIZE DELAY. THEREFORE, ENEWETAK DOSE ASSESSMENT HOPEFULLY WILL REACH YOU THE END OF THE WEEK OF MAY 28 OR EARLY WEEK OF JUNE 4. ALSO, THIS MAY DEFER POSSIBLE MEETING OF ADVISORY GROUP WITH LLL STAFF UNTIL END OF WEEK OF JUNE 18, IF ACCEPTABLE TO YOU - PERHAPS

JUNE 20-21. MEETING WITH ENEWETAKESE SCHEDULED FOR WEEK OF JULY 15 ALSO MAY BE POSTPONED TO WEEK OF JULY 30.

7) E. T. BRAMLITT, DNA, HAS REVISED HIS DOCUMENT, "DOSE ESTIMATES FOR POST-CLEANUP USE OF ENEWETAK ATOLL." DNA HAS REQUESTED THAT DOE (AND THE ADVISORY GROUP) REVIEW THE DOCUMENT PRIOR TO THEIR RELEASING IT. (IN FACT, DNA IS ASKING FOR ADVICE AS TO WHETHER OR NOT IT SHOULD BE RELEASED.) AFTER SENDING THE DOCUMENT TO ME, DNA CALLED AND ASKED THAT IT BE RETURNED FOR FURTHER "INTERNAL REVIEW" BEFORE DISTRIBUTING TO US (AND YOU).

8) JONATHAN WEISGALL, COUNSELOR TO THE BIKINI PEOPLE, WILL, SUBJECT TO THE BIKINI COUNCIL, RETAIN JIM BRENNAN AS A CONSULTANT TO REVIEW DOE 13-ATOLL DATA AND EVALUATION. THIS IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE COURT ORDER DIRECTING SAME.

9) DEAL, MCCRAW AND I MET WITH WEISGALL, BRENNAN AND HENCHI BALOS (REP. OF THE BIKINIANS) TO DISCUSS RESULTS FROM THE 13-ATOLL SURVEY. IT CAME AS SOMETHING OF A SURPRISE TO ME THAT THESE PEOPLE MAY NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT HAPPENED OR WHY. BALOS' FIRST QUESTION WAS, "WHY IS BIKINI SO MUCH WORSE THAN ENEU WHEN THEY'RE ONLY A FEW MILES APART?" THIS LED TO A DISCUSSION OF FALLOUT PATTERNS. ANOTHER QUESTION, "WAS NOT THE WATER CONTAMINATED? AND SINCE THE SAME WATER TOUCHES BIKINI AND ENEU, WHY ARE THEY DIFFERENT?" PERHAPS WE SHOULD PLAN TO MEET WITH THEM LATER IN THE YEAR AS WE ARE PLANNING TO DO WITH THE ENEWETAKESE.

10) I MET WITH TED MITCHELL, RUTH VAN CLEVE AND EARL GILMORE (H & N) TO DISCUSS PLANTING OF COCONUTS IN NORTHEASTERN ENEWETAK. MITCHELL HAD INSISTED THAT A GO - NO-GO DECISION WAS REQUIRED BY MAY 15. GILMORE INDICATED THAT THE DEADLINE WAS AUGUST 1, ALLOWING INTERIOR TO DEFER A DECISION UNTIL OUR DOSE ASSESSMENT IS AVAILABLE.

11) ABOVE CONVERSATION ADDRESSED FRC AND EPA GUIDANCE AT LENGTH. AM SENDING COPIES OF FRC #1 AND EPA COMMENTS TO MITCHELL AND TO INTERIOR.

IN SUMMARY, YOU WILL BE RECEIVING: 1) COPY OF DOE LETTER TO INTERIOR RE ENEU, 2) COPIES OF EPA COMMENTS RE ENEWETAK, 3) A COPY OF THE OMNIBUS TRUST TERRITORY BILL, 4) LLL ENEU DOSE ASSESSMENT--WHEN AVAILABLE, 5) LLL ENEWETAK DOSE ASSESSMENT--WHEN AVAILABLE. THE LATTER SHOULD ARRIVE ON OR ABOUT MAY 31 - JUNE 5 FOR REVIEW, WITH A MEETING WITH LLL (IF NECESSARY) AROUND JUNE 20-22; (4) SHOULD ARRIVE ASAP, PROBABLY SOMETIME NEXT WEEK.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME, PATIENCE, ADVICE AND COOPERATION.

Addressees:

Dr. William J. Bair
Manager, Environment, Health
and Safety Research Program
Battelle-Pacific Northwest Laboratory
P. O. Box 999
Richland, Washington 99352

Dr. John A. Auxier
Director, Health Physics Division
Oak Ridge National Laboratory
P. O. Box X
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830

Dr. Chester W. Francis
Environmental Sciences Division
Oak Ridge National Laboratory
P. O. Box X
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830

Dr. Richard O. Gilbert
Energy Systems Department
Battelle-Pacific Northwest Laboratory
P. O. Box 999
Richland, Washington 99352

Dr. John W. Healy
H Division - Health Research
Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory
P. O. Box 1663
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545

Dr. Roger O. McClellan
Director, Lovelace Inhalation
Toxicology Research Institute
P. O. Box 5890
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87115

Dr. Chester R. Richmond
Associate Director, Biomedical and
Environmental Sciences
Oak Ridge National Laboratory
P. O. Box X
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830

Dr. William L. Templeton
Associate Manager, Ecosystems Dept.
Battelle-Pacific Northwest Laboratory
P. O. Box 999
Richland, Washington 99352

Dr. Roy C. Thompson
Biology Department
Battelle-Pacific Northwest Laboratory
P. O. Box 999
Richland, Washington 99352