

Bikini Islanders Sue over U.S. Agreement

Exiled residents of Bikini Island, which was left almost unlivable by 12 years of American atomic testing, have filed suit to force several federal agencies to comply with resettlement agreements.

The suit, filed Thursday in federal court by representatives of the 860 Bikini islanders, claims that a partial resettlement of the island was begun in 1970 without residents being told of possible health hazards due to radioactivity.

The suit also claims

that tests for radiation dangers have been inadequate, and that no plans for the future economic self-sufficiency of the islanders have been developed.

All this, the suit claims, is in violation of the agreement under which the United States administers the Trust Territories, as well as the National Environmental Policy Act.

The suit asks that the court limit access to the island, provide immediate

examination of persons now in risk of contamination, make adequate studies of the island's radioactivity, and provide information to the islanders in both Marshallese and English.

The suit names President Ford, Secretary of Defense James Schlesinger, and administrators of the U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. Energy Research and Development Administration, formerly the Atomic Energy Commission.

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