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FROM: ROGER RAY USERDA KWAJALEIN MI
 TO: DR JAMES LIVERMAN USERDA WASH DC
 INFO: M. E. GATES USERDA LAS VEGAS NEVADA

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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

SUBJECT: Report from Bikini

1. Party arrived Enyu Island at 8:30 A.M. September 6 via C-54 from Kwajalein. Proceeded immediately by small boat to Bikini Island. We were warmly greeted and after a brief tour met with the assembled community. We had been accompanied from Kwajalein by about 15 Bikini returnees and because of limited small boat capacity Oscar deBrum remained with these 15, accompanied by Kris Morris, on Enyu. Thus, Tony deBrum served in the multiple role of Chairman, Moderator, Interpreter in the Bikini meeting.

2. I again described the June survey results and recommendations, with particular emphasis on our confidence that existing houses are safe.

3. George Allen followed by introducing himself, saying that he considers Bikini to be Micronesian Legal Service's most important case. He said that MLSC has not yet had an opportunity to obtain comments from independent scientists on ERDA recommendations; that different scientists disagree regarding radiation. He stated MLSC believes ERDA recommendations are premature. He hopes other scientists will agree with ERDA, but they may not. He will meet next week with Ted Mitchell, MLSC Director, to discuss obtaining independent scientists' views.

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REPOSITORY DOE/PASO
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 BOX No. 1234
 FOLDER BIKINI - MISC CORRESPONDENCE / RPTS
9/74 - 12/75

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ROGER RAY, USERDA KWAJALEIN		
TYPED NAME, TITLE, OFFICE SYMBOL AND PHONE R. F. SULLIVAN, LTC, DCO, RKE, 81402		
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2 of 4

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4. The principal spokesman for Bikinians, a Wotje man married to a Bikinian, then asked many questions others had posed. He first apologized for "our ignorance and inability to comprehend." Then said they had heard six days ago by radio that radiation is dangerous at Bikini. I answered saying that I believed this must be a misunderstanding based upon the DOI press release which was in itself based upon misunderstanding. I stated that the present houses were sited along the lagoon road, as AEC recommended, and were built generally according to AEC recommendations; that we have made measurements inside and around these houses and find them safe so long as our advice on foods and water is followed. I mentioned also Dr. Conard's findings from recent surveys as further supporting our conclusions.

5. then asked if Lawyer George Allen agrees. To my relief and his credit, Allen said: "We often disagree with ERDA and generally give cautious consideration to ERDA statements." On this matter, however, we agree with Mr. Ray and ERDA. Our concerns are with the Atoll as a whole and with what happens over 30 years or more."

6. There was then a lengthy discussion of poison fish at Bikini, with Neva and others asserting that many species which were edible "before the bomb" now cause illness.

7. I cited other examples of spontaneous appearance of ciguatera at Fiji, Maui, and elsewhere and assured him that there is no radiation problem with any Bikini marine life. I also told him of some of the rules which can be followed to avoid ciguatera poisoning, and informed him of University of Hawaii ciguatera program. Again, I was pleased

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to hear Mr. Allen say, "We at MLSC have complete confidence in the statements Mr. Ray has just made."

8. The minister then pointed out that even fish of the same species may be divided--some poison, some edible. He wondered if the poisonous ones may be feeding on radioactivity in the sunken crossroads ships. I again mentioned the University of Hawaii studies and our confidence that radiation is not the cause. Allen said that uncertainties such as this are what make MLSC say that ERDA's recommendations are premature. This passed without further comment.

9. Then in discussing his own role, Allen said, "I shall need your help. We know that you have always been helpful to those such as Mr. Ray and Dr. Gudiksen who are trying to help you." (The first admission that our efforts are constructive.)

10. expressed the concern of some who during the drought of 1974 had necessarily drunk groundwater. "What will happen to us?" I told him we were aware of that and had taken samples, that levels were not high enough for any concern except if consumed over long periods of time. His response: "Thank you for allaying our fears, but if we do get sick please remember us."

11. There followed some repetitious discussion for a total of about two hours. The spokesman then quite sincerely said, "I think there are no more questions. Your answers have been most satisfying." I thanked him and promised that we will continue our studies as long as they will permit us and will continue to visit as long as they welcome us. They all then sang, as we stood in front of the meeting,

a Marshallese song "I long for my home." As they sang, all adults

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4 of 4
BOOK

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filed by to shake our hands and thank us. As we boarded our boat, they placed large baskets of food aboard.

12. This two hours on Bikini was perhaps most important of a week of hard work. It was without question most gratifying.

SEP 15 1975

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DIRECTOR <i>WS</i>			
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CLERK			
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