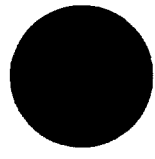


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 TO RHEGNVO/USERDA/NV ROGER RAY ATTN R N EWMAN LAS VEGAS NV
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 QUOTE MICRONESIAN NEWS SERVICE
 REVISED: MAY)2, 1975
 PAGE 2

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PAGE 2 RUHHWIAO198 UNCLAS
 COMTWELVE PASS INFO FOR AMB WILLIAMS
 SECSTATE PASS TO DEPT INT/SEC INTERIOR/DOIA OSN
 AMEMBASSY CANBERRA FOR PAC. ISL. MONTHLY
 (BIKINI ISLANDERS RETURN TO HOME ISLAND DELAYED)
 SAIPAN, AUG.23 (MNS)---THE PLANNED RETURN IN MID-SEPTEMBER
 OF THE FIRST OFFICIAL CONTINGENT OF SOME 150 BIKINIANS TO THEIR
 HOME ATOLL HAS BEEN POSTPONED TO PERMIT COMPLETE ANALYSIS AND
 EVALUATION OF THE LATEST RADIOLOGICAL SURVEY. IT WAS CONDUCTED IN
 JUNE 1975 BY THE ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION
 (ERDA) ON BIKINI ATOLL.
 BIKINI WAS THE SITE OF 23 NUCLEAR TESTS (INCLUDING SURFACE
 AND SUP-SURFACE BURSTS) IN THE PERIOD 1946-58. THE BIKINIANS
 WERE MOVED FROM BIKINI ATOLL BEFORE TESTING BEGAN. THEY WERE
 SUBSEQUENTLY SETTLED TEMPORARILY ON KILI ISLAND, ALSO IN THE
 MARSHALLS. IN AUGUST, 1968, PRESIDENT JOHNSON ANNOUNCED THAT
 THE BIKINIANS WOULD BE ABLE TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMETLAND AT A LATER
 TIME. HE DIRECTED THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, DEPARTMENT
 OF DEFENSE, AND THE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION (NOW PART OF ERDA)
 TO COOPERATE IN PREPARING FOR THEIR RETURN.

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TWO ISLANDS OF THE ATOLL, BIKINI AND ENEU, WERE DETERMINED IN 1967 TO BE SAFE FOR HABITATION WITH CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS NECESSARY FOR BIKINI ISLAND. SINCE THE PEOPLE OF BIKINI ATOLL TRADITIONALLY HAD THEIR MAIN LIVING SETTLEMENT ON BIKINI ISLAND, THEY ELECTED TO HAVE THE NEW SETTLEMENT STARTED THERE WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT SOME RESTRICTIONS WERE NEEDED AND CONTINUAL RADIOLOGICAL CHECKS WERE TO BE MADE BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER THEIR RETURN TO THE ISLAND.

AS PART OF THE CONTINUING MONITORING OF BIKINI ATOLL A SURVEY CONDUCTED BY ERDA IN JUNE 1975, REVEALS THE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES RECOMMENDED IN 1967 MAY REQUIRE MODIFICATION. A STUDY OF THE JUNE 1975 DATA IS UNDERWAY AND DEFINITIVE RECOMMENDATIONS ARE EXPECTED IN ABOUT SIX MONTHS FROM NOW.

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, WITH PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS OF WHICH BIKINI ATOLL IS A PART, HAS BEEN CONSTRUCTING THE FIRST PHASE OF THE NEW SETTLEMENT ON BIKINI ISLAND. THE DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED THIS WEEK THAT THE FIRST OFFICIAL CONTINGENT WAITING ON KILI SHOULD DELAY THEIR MOVE PENDING FURTHER ANALYSIS OF THE RECENT RADIOLOGICAL SURVEY.

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DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR OSCAR DEBRUM OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS DISTRICT, REPRESENTATIVES OF ERDA AND LEGAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE OF BIKINI ARE SCHEDULED TO DEPART MAJURO, THE DISTRICT CENTER, THE FIRST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER FOR KILI ISLAND. THERE THEY WILL DISCUSS WITH THE BIKINI PEOPLE THE PRELIMINARY FINDINGS OF THE JUNE 1975 SURVEY PRIOR TO ANY RESETTLEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS. ENEU ISLAND, WHICH LIES FOUR MILES FROM BIKINI ISLAND AND FORMS PART OF THE OVERALL HABITATION AREA, HAS BEEN PLACED UNDER ANY RESTRICTIONS. FURTHER STUDIES ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION. UNQUOTE. PLEASE NOTE THAT THE BRACKET SIGN IS USED IN LIEU OF A ONE IN THE DISTRIBUTION DATE REVISION ON THE ORIGINAL SCRIPT. THIS APPEARS TO BE A TYPOGRAPHICAL ERROR AS SHOWN ON THE SCRIPT HANDCARRIED TO PASO FROM BOB LAW, HONOLULU TRUST TERRITORY REPRESENTATIVE. THE BRACKET SIGN IS LOCATED ON THE SAME TYPEWRITER KEY AS THE 1 AND IT IS ASSUMED THAT THE DATE IS MAY 12, 1975 WHICH WAS TYPED AS BRACKET SIGN 2, BRACKET SIGN 975. ALSO PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS DATE IS A REVISION OF THE DISTRIBUTION FORMAT. THE DATE OF THE PRESS RELEASE IS 8/23/75. THIS WAS CONFIRMED BY MR. LAW. NOTE TO R. RAY: MANUEL DEBRUM IS THE CONFIRMED NAME.

END MSG. OP-577.

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