

TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS
Office of the High Commissioner
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

TO : High Commissioner
FROM : Chief of Community Development
SUBJECT: Record of Meetings with AEC Officials et al, Regarding Bikini Project

DATE: 5/1/70

Preliminary meeting on Tuesday, April 23, 1970

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. Frank Cluff, AEC, Nevada
Dr. H.B. Biles, AEC, Washington
N. Norman Cralay, Jr., Director, Public Affairs
Strik Tana, Deputy Director, Public Affairs
Dwight Hoins, Special Consultant to the High Commissioner
George Halandshi, District Agriculturist, Marshalls
Jack Tobin, Community Development Advisor, Marshalls
William Jackson, Community Development Staff
Dr. William Peck, Director, Health Services
Dr. Robert Blaking, Deputy Director, Health Services
Gerald Czeddock, Assistant Chief, Community Development

Dr. Biles announced that since house construction would soon begin on Bikini, he thought it a good time to re-survey the two main islands to confirm their safety, particularly the sand and aggregate that might be used in construction. The survey, to take place starting around May 20, will also include interstitial air samples and the distance that were constructed last fall. The radiological levels on Eniwetok are lower than Bikini, Biles said, so that is AEC's primary concern although that should in no way affect the resettlement program plans. As an extra measure of safety he urged that we explore the possibility of chipping the bulldozer vegetative material so that new top soil will form as early as possible. He pointed out that any new ground cover will lessen radiation effects.

The remainder of the meeting concerned plans for shipping AEC staff and equipment to Bikini. Halandshi said that boat transportation, water, food, and shelter could be provided the AEC team in Eniwetok. A rehabilitation school would be worked out in Eniwetok in connection with shipping arrangements. Biles hopes to get an air force plane to remove the survey team and equipment on Eniwetok.

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Mr. Craley requested Biles to check at AEC for photos and documents of Bikini which the Navy are alleged to have compiled before nuclear testing began. Biles said he would look into this and let us know.

Meeting with High Commissioner on Thursday, April 29, 1970.

PARTICIPANTS: Johnston Graley Heine
 Coleman Stanton Jackson
 Biles Tubbs Craddock
 Cluff Anderson
 Nakanishi Lambert
 Tobin Yema

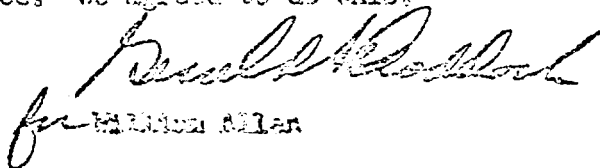
Dr. Biles reviewed purpose of his visit as stated in the April 28 meeting. Mr. Lambert inquired about the coconut crab. Biles doubted there was any problem but said they would be checked again. Cluff pointed out that the Eneu crabs had lower radiation levels than those on Bikini. Also, the Bikini crabs were far fewer in number. Biles said AEC will send recommendations on alternative ways to deal with crabs on Bikini without risk to the ecological system.

Biles was concerned about scrap metal being salvaged and said that it will be checked during survey. The High Commissioner said the Bikini people need a signed certificate of some kind that the atoll is safe. Biles said that AEC cannot issue such a certificate for any area since radioactivity exists at some measurable level in all areas of the world. He then quoted the ad hoc committee's statement that no significant threat existed to inhabitants of Bikini and Eneu islands. He agreed that a general statement in writing regarding the safety of Bikini could be issued by AEC and he agreed to supply this.

Biles said that samples removed from Bikini would be analyzed within five or six weeks. He said that meanwhile the plan for houses to be arranged along the beach is wise since radiation is less there than inland. Also, if sand and aggregate could be hauled from Eneu, less risk would be involved. Cluff interjected, however, that the upcoming survey results should be analyzed before any firm decision on this is made.

Regarding logistics preparations, Nakanishi said the AEC should add a jeep to their list of equipment being sent. All arrangements would be handled with the Marshalls District.

Dr. Biles suggested that AEC be kept informed on all new Bikini developments through the Honolulu IRO office. We agreed to do this.


for William Allen

cc: DI, Marshalls