



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DEFENSE ATOMIC SUPPORT AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20305

405541

ADDRESS REPLY TO
PLSP

1 OCT 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
THE SECRETARY OF INTERIOR
CHAIRMAN, ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

SUBJECT: Fifth Status Report, Cleanup of Bikini Atoll

1. Reference is made to Director, DASA memorandum of 2 September 1969 to the above addressees, and prior related references, subject: "Status Report, Cleanup of Bikini Atoll," which reported the situation through 2 September 1969.
2. On 23-24 September the AEC-DOD Bikini Project Manager (Director, DASA) made an inspection visit to Bikini Atoll. The AEC-DOD phase of the cleanup work is nearly complete. Informal discussions with the High Commissioner, Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands, and his representatives at the atoll indicate their agreement with the basic cleanup concepts and their satisfaction with accomplishments to date and the planned close-out procedures insofar as the latter may be of concern to them. The High Commissioner's views will be coordinated in close-out reports.
3. On 30 September the Bikini Task Group commenced back-loading heavy equipment aboard USNS MERREL in Bikini lagoon. It is expected that roll-up operations at Bikini will be finished, including withdrawal of the task group, by 8 October 1969.

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4. In accordance with existing agreements the AEC Nevada Operations Office has provided the Bikini Project Manager with a final status report of the radiological cleanup at Bikini. That report certifies that the program of radioactive scrap removal, environmental sampling, and general radiological cleanup at Bikini Atoll has been satisfactorily completed. However, it should be understood that the report does not include recommendations concerning the use of Bikini land or consumption of locally available foods. Recommendations of this nature are being held in abeyance by the AEC pending analysis of food and environmental samples collected during the cleanup program. It appears that these and, certain additional residual AEC responsibilities toward radiological safety at Bikini may continue for some years.

5. Pursuant to Secretary of Defense message 082324Z August 1969, the Department of the Air Force has notified Director, DASA that the Air Force desires to retain rights of access and use of two land sites at Bikini Atoll for potential future use. Director, DASA will coordinate these requirements and site locations with the Trust Territory Government.

6. After withdrawal of the Bikini Task Group, Director, DASA will originate a short interim report of completion. This will be followed by a comprehensive final report documenting the AEC-DOD cleanup at Bikini Atoll.

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L. M. MUSTIN
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