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REPOSITORY DOE/PASO
COLLECTION DOE/NV
BOX No. 1227; "ERDA # 2"
BIKINI SURVEY (BIO-MED)
FOLDER July, 1969

USAEC, W.A. BONNET, MGR., HAO, HONO, HAW

JULY 31, 1969

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UNCLAS/ SUBJECT: ~~SUMMARY OF CLEANUP EFFORT~~ BIKINI ATOLL

THIS REPLIES TO YOUR MESSAGE R242115Z JUL AS WELL AS TO YOUR MESSAGE R282328Z JUL.

SUMMARY OF CLEANUP EFFORT:

1. FIRST CONTINGENT OF 26 PERSONNEL, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES ARRIVED BY SHIP AT BIKINI ATOLL ON FEBRUARY 17, 1969. A CAMP WAS ESTABLISHED ON ENYU AND THE 4600-FT. RUNWAY WAS CLEARED OF VEGETATION, GRADED AND COMPACTED. THE FIRST AIRCRAFT LANDED ON FEBRUARY 22. ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES ARRIVED AT BIKINI ATOLL ON THE SHIP TRANSCOLUMBIA MARCH 9-10, THE PENDLETON MARCH 15, LST SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY APRIL 3-5, AND LSD 18 COLUMBIA MAY 19.
2. DOD FURNISHED PERSONNEL FOR DEMOLITION (EOD), MEDICAL SERVICES (DOCTOR AND AIDMEN), PHOTOGRAPHY, BOATS, AND POSTAL SERVICES WHILE H&N FURNISHED PERSONNEL FOR EQUIPMENT OPERATION, MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR, WELDING AND CUTTING, RIGGING, CAMP OPERATION (DISTILLATION, PLUMBING, ELECTRICAL, MESSING, CAMP CLEANUP) AND RADIO COMMUNICATION. AEC FURNISHED RAD-SAFE MONITORS AND T.T. FURNISHED A RODENT CONTROL TEAM (MAY 14 - JUNE 4) AND EIGHT LABORERS SINCE JUNE 4.
3. DEMOLITION AND CLEANUP ON ENYU (NAN) COMMENCED FEBRUARY 26 AND CONTINUED

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

THROUGH JUNE. WORK INCLUDED REMOVAL OF STEEL AND WOODEN TOWERS, DEMOLITION OF OLD WOODEN STRUCTURES, CONCRETE SLABS, CONCRETE AND STEEL JUNCTION BOXES, ANCHOR BLOCKS, FOOTINGS AND FOUNDATIONS, DISPOSAL AT SEA OF APPROXIMATELY 400 TONS OF SCRAP (DEEP SIXING OF SCRAP WAS DONE UTILIZING THE LCU COMMENCING MARCH 28 AND TWO BARGES IN MAY-JUNE), AND DISPOSAL BY BURIAL OF APPROXIMATELY 1800 TONS OF SCRAP AND DEBRIS AND 2600 TONS OF CONCRETE RUBBLE. IN ADDITION, APPROXIMATELY 800 TONS OF CONCRETE RUBBLE WERE USED AS RIP-RAP AT ENDS OF RUNWAY AND AT CAMP BLANDY BEACH, AND APPROXIMATELY 3000 TONS OF CONCRETE RUBBLE WERE USED AS BACKFILL AT THE LST DOCK AREA AND THE MAIN DOCK AREA. CONCRETE BUNKERS WERE STRIPPED OF ALL EXPOSED METAL AND CLEANED OUT; BERMS AND CORAL FILL REMOVED AND USED TO FILL OVER SCRAP PIT AND LOW AREAS. CLEARED AREAS SUCH AS AROUND BUNKERS, THE DOCK AREA, THE OLD CAMP AREA, AND EQUIPMENT YARD WERE GRADED AND VEGETATION PUSHED INTO COMPOST PILES. SALVAGEABLE BUILDINGS WERE CLEANED OUT AND LEFT INTACT. FINAL WORK ON ENYU HAS CONTINUED INTERMITTENTLY IN JULY AND AUGUST AS FILL-IN WORK. STRIPPING FOR AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM REMAINS.

4. EXPLORATORY WORK WAS DONE ON BIKINI (MAN) MARCH 3-5. ACTUAL DEMOLITION AND CLEANUP COMMENCED MARCH 24, WAS COMPLETED JULY 19. THE WORK WAS HAMPERED BY THE DENSE JUNGLE GROWTH AND THE DISCOVERY OF "UNKNOWN" ABANDONED CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT SCATTERED THROUGH THE JUNGLE ADDED TO THE DIFFICULTIES. WORK INCLUDED DOZING APPROXIMATELY 70 MILES OF PARALLEL STRIPS ON ⁵⁶56-FOOT CENTERS TO FACILITATE THE PLANTING OF COCONUTS, REMOVAL OF STEEL AND WOODEN TOWERS, DEMOLITION OF OLD WOODEN STRUCTURES, CONCRETE SLABS AND REVETMENTS, CONCRETE AND STEEL JUNCTION BOXES, ANCHOR BLOCKS, FOOTINGS AND FOUNDATIONS, AND DISPOSAL BY BURIAL OF APPROXIMATELY 15,000 TONS OF CONCRETE RUBBLE, SCRAP IRON,

ABANDONED EQUIPMENT. IN ADDITION, APPROXIMATELY 1000 TONS OF CONCRETE RUBBLE WERE USED AS RIP-RAP ON BEACH ADJACENT TO OLD CAMP. CONCRETE BUNKERS WERE STRIPPED OF ALL EXPOSED METAL AND CLEANED OUT; BERMS AND CORAL FILL REMOVED AND USED AS FILL OVER SCRAP PITS AND LOW AREAS. CLEARED AREAS WERE GRADED. THE BEACHES WERE CLEARED OF SCRAP METAL INCLUDING OLD PONTOONS, EQUIPMENT, BARGES AND BOATS. SALVAGEABLE BUILDINGS WERE CLEANED OUT AND LEFT INTACT. A STRIP THE LENGTH OF THE ISLAND AND ALONG THE LAGOON BEACH WAS CLEARED FOR BUILDING SITES.

5. WORK COMMENCED ON THE SOUTHERN COMPLEX OF ISLANDS ON JUNE 12 WITH FIRST WORK AT PETER-OBOE IN THE OLD CAMP AREA WITH DEMOLITION OF OLD WOODEN STRUCTURES, CONCRETE SLABS, FOOTINGS AND FOUNDATIONS; REMOVAL OF TOWER ON TARE, CONCRETE BUNKERS WERE STRIPPED OF EXPOSED METAL AND CLEANED, CABLE BERMS LEVELED, DISPOSED BY BURIAL SCRAP METAL AND DEBRIS, CONCRETE RUBBLE USED AS FILL FOR SEAWALL, SCRAP ON REEF AND ALONG BEACH PICKED UP, CORAL FILL REMOVED FROM BUNKERS AND USED AS FILL IN LOW AREA ON ROGER. APPROXIMATELY 50 TONS OF "HOT" MATERIAL WERE DISPOSED OF AT SEA BY MARINE BURIAL. WORK IN THE SOUTHERN COMPLEX IS SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION MID-AUGUST. WILLIAM ISLAND WAS CLEARED JUNE 28 - JULY 15. WORK INCLUDED REMOVAL OF TOWER AND ANCHOR BLOCKS, EXPOSED METAL FROM BUNKER, BARGE ON BEACH, TERMINAL VAULT AND BURIAL IN PIT. FILL OVER BUNKER WAS USED TO BACKFILL OVER SCRAP PIT AND TO LEVEL LOW AREAS. CLEANUP ON UNCLE COMMENCED JULY 18 AND WAS COMPLETED JULY 25. WORK INCLUDED CLEANUP OF BUNKERS, SCRAP ON REEF AND ISLAND INCLUDING THE REMAINS OF AN OLD AIRCRAFT, DEMOLITION OF CONCRETE STATIONS, BURIAL OF SCRAP AND BACKFILL WITH CORAL FROM COVER OVER BUNKER.

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6. WORK ON THE NORTHERN ISLANDS COMMENCED JULY 28 ON GEORGE AND WILL CONTINUE THROUGH AUGUST.

GENERAL COMMENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. AS PRESENTLY DEFINED, JIM JOHNSON AND I BELIEVE THE PHYSICAL WORK CONNECTED WITH THE CLEANUP PROGRAM WILL BE COMPLETED ON OR ABOUT SEPTEMBER 1. FACTORS BEYOND OUR CONTROL, SUCH AS WEATHER, MAY AFFECT THIS DATE.
2. ROLLUP AND PREPARATION OF EQUIPMENT FOR SHIPMENT WILL TAKE ABOUT AN ADDITIONAL TWO WEEKS. ACTUAL SHIPMENT FROM BIKINI ATOLL WILL DEPEND UPON AVAILABILITY OF NAVY TRANSPORT. ON JULY 24 JTF-8 REQUESTED THIS SUPPORT FROM CINCPAC FOR ON OR ABOUT SEPTEMBER 1, BUT CINCPAC HAS MADE NO COMMITMENT AS YET.
3. I CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THE TOTAL CLEANUP COSTS WILL BE IN THE ORDER OF \$1M AS COMPARED TO THE ORIGINAL ESTIMATE OF \$1.3M. H&N COSTS AND COMMITMENTS AS OF JULY 31 TOTAL \$610,000. THIS COMPARES WITH FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,030,000 PROVIDED TO H&N FROM THE \$1.3M. H&N ESTIMATES THEIR PORTION OF THE CLEANUP WORK IS ABOUT 80% COMPLETED AS OF JULY 31.

COMMENTS REGARDING POSSIBLE USE OF H&N IN SUPPORT OF TRUST TERRITORY OUTSIDE OF CLEANUP EFFORT ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. THE HIGH COMMISSIONER HAS REQUESTED HAO TO HAVE H&N CONSTRUCT TWO CONCRETE WATER CATCHMENT BASINS ON ENYU AND THREE SUCH BASINS ON BIKINI. BASED ON OUR ESTIMATE FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$23,100 WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE FROM T.T. TO AEC. FIELD WORK IS SCHEDULED TO START ON OR ABOUT AUGUST 15.

2. IN MY OPINION THE T.T. WOULD LIKE TO HAVE H&N PERFORM WORK IN ADDITION TO THE FIVE WATER CATCHMENT BASINS. HOWEVER, IT WILL PROBABLY BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE T.T. TO DO SO SINCE THEIR PLANNING AND FUNDING CANNOT BE DEFINED UNTIL SEVERAL MONTHS FROM NOW. IN THE MEANTIME H&N'S PHYSICAL RESOURCES WILL HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM THE ATOLL SINCE IT IS IMPRACTICAL TO LEAVE SUCH RESOURCES THERE WITH ONLY THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE T.T. MAY ASK FOR OUR HELP.

3. IF THE T.T. ASKS FOR OUR ASSISTANCE SEVERAL MONTHS FROM NOW AFTER H&N HAS DEPARTED THE ATOLL, WE WILL CROSS THAT BRIDGE AT THAT TIME. BE ASSURED I HAVE MADE NO LONG RANGE COMMITMENTS OF ASSISTANCE TO THE T.T. AND NONE WILL BE MADE WHICH IN ANY WAY INTERFERES WITH THE TEST READINESS PROGRAM. ALSO IT IS CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD WITH THE T.T. THAT ALL WORK DONE BY THE AEC FOR THEM WILL BE ON A COST REIMBURSABLE BASIS. EMD. REF. HO-1142.

bcc: H&N

W.A. Bonnet (Personal file)