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Received 5/1/73

5/10/73
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Dr. M

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Dear Dr. Leachman:

This is in reply to your letter of 23 April which just arrived. I will answer your questions in the order in which you asked them.

1.) The Enewetak People consider all islands as valuable assets for exploitation of the natural resources of land and surrounding reefs. This includes Bokaluo (Alice), Bokambako (Belle), and Louj (Clara), and Bluklab (Ella). The correct terminology. My understanding is that these islands have been devastated by the testing programs.

This part of the atoll was the source for the major part of the shellfish (tridacnidae) and other molluscs, according to Enewetak informants.

The islands which you cite, and the others in the area reportedly furnished vegetable foods such as pandanus, arrowroot and coconuts.

These, and all of the islands in the atoll will be exploited. A migratory sort of exploitation pattern is followed. The leaders have stated that they want three permanent villages to be established. These will be on Enjebi, Medren (Farry), and Enewetak Island. They plan to establish a temporary village or workers' camp on Japtan (David). I predict that this will also become permanent.

Temporary houses will probably be built on other islands within the atoll as is the normal practice. The large amount of surplus (salvage) building materials that will be available to the people will facilitate this.

You are quite correct when you correlate the increase in population, which is the trend of course, with future occupancy of islands not now being used as village sites. One would have to see these islands, named above, before one could answer your question as to whether they would be "worthwhile for occupancy." It seems to me, from what I know of the situation, that there are sufficient islands to take care of the residence needs of the Enewetak People for the next decade or so at least. However this assumes that all of the islands will be habitable, and free of radioactivity. Of course if the population pressure becomes intense any island that will support life will be "worthwhile for occupancy."

The normal foods would be grown. As indicated above these would be primarily pandanus, arrowroot, and coconuts. With breadfruit, banana, and papaya, and limes grown, soil conditions permitting. I have gone into some detail into settlement, agricultural rehabilitation, and the diet in my report which will be part of the final AEC report. It will be available to you I presume upon request from Dr. Barr or Dr. Hervik.

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I hope that this will answer your questions. If you have any further questions I will be glad to try to answer them for you.

I look forward to seeing you in Livermore.

Sincerely,

Jack A. Tobin

cc Dr. N. Barr ✓
Dr. W. Hervik
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