

dollars). The background leading to the present situation and description of some of the conditions on Eniwetok observed in recent visits are reviewed in the attached discussion paper.

It is suggested that, as with rehabilitation of Bikini Atoll, responsibility for rehabilitation of Eniwetok Atoll should rest with the Department of the Interior and the

Department of Defense, with AEC providing technical support to these departments. AEC should cooperate with Interior and Defense by providing radiological surveys for planning cleanup and health physics support during field operations. AEC's responsibility would be the radiological health and safety aspects of the rehabilitation operation. AEC would provide followup radiological surveillance of the Eniwetok environment and medical surveillance of the returning Eniwetok people.

An early meeting is scheduled with Ambassador Franklin Haydn Williams, Office of Micronesian Status Negotiations, Department of the Interior, to review with him information about Eniwetok that is known at the present time and what might be

(Continued)

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H.L. Hoppe 10/29/85

REVIEWED BY DATE  
Carl Wilson 11/20/85

By: W. Tenen 3/5/87

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- 1 -

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involved in cleanup of the Atoll for return to the Trust Territory. The NSC has been informed of the situation in light of the potential cost and still unresolved conclusion whether it will be possible to clean up Eniwetok sufficiently to return it to the Trust Territory.

W. B. McCool

Secretary of the Commission

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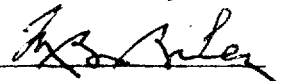
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of eleven ships sitting on the lagoon bottom some of which may show measurable levels of fission product and induced activity and for which there is interest in salvage.

There is a policy question whether the Bikini cleanup pattern should or could be followed. There will be questions concerning whether it will be acceptable in light of the public attitude toward environmental matters today to allow a rehabilitation of the island if restriction on movement and items of food are required.

Classified by:

- 3 -

  
Dr. Martin B. Biles  
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6/20/72

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of this request, an Ad Hoc committee of eight scientists having medical and radiobiology backgrounds was appointed by the Division of Biology and Medicine to review available data. Additional information was obtained for their consideration in a radiological survey conducted April-May 1967. These consultants reached the unanimous conclusion that it would be radiologically safe to allow the Bikini people to return home. The consultants also made recommendations for actions to be taken to reduce exposures that guided the clean-up and agricultural rehabilitation programs. Key items were removal of contaminated scrap, precautions regarding use of local foods and food production, and periodic surveys to check the radiation status of the people and the environment. President Johnson announced the decision to return the Bikinians to their atoll on August 12, 1968.

As to the role of AEC in the Bikini resettlement program, by letter of February 3, 1969, the Secretary of the Interior was informed that the AEC would cooperate with the Departments of Interior and Defense in the cleanup of Bikini Atoll and would provide \$300,000 in fiscal year 1969 for this purpose. Also, AEC would be responsible for the radiological health and safety aspects of the program. Accordingly, AEC is now conducting and committed to periodic

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mixed the contaminated soil through much of the island.

Assuming that cleanup of the island is feasible at all, it is impossible to estimate the exact magnitude of the job until more extensive radiological surveys have been conducted. Some surveys are planned for the fall in anticipation of cleanup and rehabilitation of the atoll.

There are no funds budgeted in FY '73 for any cleanup activities or for the radiological survey at Eniwetok. The Nevada Operations Office has estimated that a complete survey of Eniwetok would cost \$225 thousand.

support during the field operations and similar activities in followup surveillance following return of Eniwetok to the Trust Territory.

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