



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

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Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in further reference to Acting Secretary Black's letter of November 8, 1968, with which he enclosed a copy of the proposed Bikini resettlement program resulting from the President's instruction that the three agencies, Interior, Defense, and the Atomic Energy Commission, cooperate in effecting the return of the Bikini people to their home atoll. That proposed program has had some further review and discussions among representatives of our respective agencies. It includes, however, as an integral part, an estimate of the work of clearing the atoll supplied at our request by the Atomic Energy Commission. The estimate amounted to \$1,200,000. The scope of work and the planning assumptions in that estimate are satisfactory to Interior and the Trust Territory and have, as noted, been incorporated as an integral part of the resettlement program.

Acting Secretary Black's letter of November 8 stated that implementation of the program will require our continued cooperation. The Department of Defense and the AEC have conducted operations in the Bikini area in the past and have essential skills and capabilities in the kind of work involved in clearing of the atoll that neither the Interior Department nor the Trust Territory Government possesses. Further, I note that the atoll is under Defense Department jurisdiction at this time under the existing use and occupancy agreement. In the interest of most expeditiously and economically setting about this necessary preliminary task, therefore, I wish formally to request the Atomic Energy Commission and the Department of Defense jointly to undertake the clean-up effort embodied in the Bikini program beginning in the fourth quarter of fiscal year 1969. This includes the removal of test-related structures and debris which are unusable or unsafe and the clearing of vegetative overgrowth. Such an effort will require the use of \$600,000 to be made available in fiscal year 1969 in equal parts by the Defense Department and the AEC. I am informed that each agency is making these funds available for this purpose.

For our part, the Department of the Interior is requesting in the fiscal year 1970 Budget the appropriation of \$1,700,000 for the Bikini resettlement program. This request includes \$600,000 for the completion of the

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326 U.S. ATOMIC ENERGY
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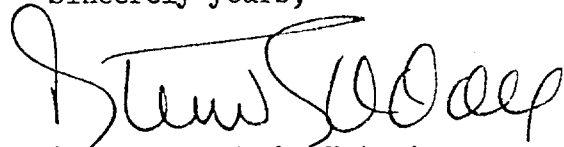
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clean-up program and an additional \$100,000 estimated to be airlift costs associated with the clean-up program. Upon receipt of these funds from the Congress we propose to transfer them to whichever agency or command the AEC and Defense Department finally determine should carry out the cleanup work.

The development of the Bikini program since the President's announcement of last August has been marked by a high degree of cooperation among all agencies concerned, and I am confident that, as the work progresses, this cooperation will continue. I am sending an identical letter to the Honorable Clark M. Clifford, Secretary of Defense.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Stewart Udall". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Secretary of the Interior

Hon. Glenn T. Seaborg
Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D.C.