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ADDRESS REPLY TO:

2 SEP 1969

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

SUBJECT: Fourth Status Report, Cleanup of Bikini Atoll

1. Reference is made to Director, DASA memoranda of 2 May, 1 July and 6 August 1969 to the above addressees, subject: "Status Report, Cleanup of Bikini Atoll," which reported the situation through 31 July 1969.
2. On 19-20 August 1969 the AEC-DOD Bikini Cleanup Project Manager (Director DASA), the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory, and representatives of the AEC made an inspection visit to Bikini Atoll.
3. The cleanup work is proceeding satisfactorily, and is expected to be completed by about 26 September. The island work force numbers 66 men; nine Bikinians are included.
4. The AEC has completed radiation surveys of all islands in the atoll, and is preparing the final documents required for certification of radiological safety. In general, it is expected that these will show that the islands of principal interest for permanent habitation are completely safe for that usage, as are a number of additional outlying islands (background radiation levels actually lower than in many areas of the U.S.). Some areas in certain of the outlying islands, though safe for intermittent entry and use, are not safe for permanent habitation. (It is understood that in pre-test years none of the areas now in this category were permanently inhabited.) All discrete physical objects showing significant radiation, such as items of debris, have been or will be removed; the source of the residual radiation is nuclides distributed, for example, in the soil. Thus it appears that the AEC should continue periodic monitoring of the areas not yet fully safe, to observe or confirm the expected radiation decay to fully safe levels.


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5. In preparation for their phase of the resettlement program, the Trust Territory Government has delivered some 18,000 seed coconuts to Bikini Atoll, and the Bikinians have established a sprouting nursery on Enyu Island.
6. Plans for withdrawal of the Bikini Task Group prior to 1 October 1969 are proceeding satisfactorily. First equipment is expected to leave the atoll about 21 September. Sea lift for other Bikini equipment back to normal bases has not yet been confirmed, but liaison with CINCPACFLT indicates that "lifts of opportunity" will in all probability be made available. If necessary, and as a last resort, MSTC lift will be scheduled.
7. In accordance with Secretary of Defense message 082324Z August 1969, Director, DASA is coordinating DOD requirements for residual land sites at Bikini Atoll with the Services, Department of Interior, Trust Territory Government and the Secretary of Navy. To date, the Army and Navy have indicated that they have no such requirements. After Air Force sites, if any, are known and the Cleanup Task Group have withdrawn, the Secretary of the Navy will be advised that the exclusive occupancy of Bikini Atoll can be terminated. Separate correspondence with appropriate agencies will phase-out the AEC-DOD program at Bikini.



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Director

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