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BOX No. 208 (NN3-326-93-010)
FOLDER MRA-7, Caste Vol. 1

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9/14/52
The case

Dear Mr. Davis:

The Commission has considered the question of the disposition of BIKINI Atoll which you, Mr. Thomas, and Mr. Gady raised at a meeting in my office on April 17, 1952. We have also considered the results of aerial and map surveys of the several alternate locations suggested in your letter of June 2, 1952.

Our first concern, you will recall, was to determine whether or not BIKINI was inhabitable from a radiological safety point of view, but a closely allied problem was that of retaining, as an alternate site capability, a location which satisfies several operational requirements. These requirements are that the site:

- (1) Have sufficient land area to accommodate the scientific tests, a small operating base, a camp for workers, and a C-47 air strip.
- (2) Have a navigable harbor sufficiently deep to accommodate ocean-going ships.
- (3) Be within reasonable supporting distance of the home base at Eniwetok.
- (4) Be far enough removed from inhabited areas so that inhabitants are not endangered by the scientific tests.

CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED
BY AUTHORITY OF DOE/OC
Cox Wilson 4/2/84
REVIEWED BY DATE
H.R. Schmidt 7/8/85
By: W. Trench 3/18/86

Our examination of all the land areas involved reveals that, while BIKINI is in all probability quite inhabitable from the radiological point of view, it is the one of all the land areas involved which most nearly satisfies our requirements for a possible supplementary site. We feel it is necessary, therefore, to maintain our present position relative to BIKINI. This means, of course, that the natives now living on BIKINI cannot be moved there. If the requirement still exists to move these natives, the Atomic Energy Commission will be glad to assist you toward that end, if you

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desire, by testifying where necessary to the effect that our operational requirements for Bikini prevent moving them there.

To establish basic topographical survey control points in case future developments require activation of Bikini as a supplementary site, we plan to send a small party there about October 1, 1952.

We are informing you of our tentative conclusions and proposed action at this time in accordance with our letter of July 7 in order that you may assess the implications thereof. We will, of course, keep you informed of future developments in this connection.

Sincerely yours,

UNITED STATES ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

Gordon Dean
Chairman

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Office of Territories
Department of Interior
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