

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

10. request for a statement in writing of the understandings that the repre-  
11. sentatives of the United States conveyed during those meetings and of the  
12. commitments that those representatives were willing to make. The follow-  
13. ing are intended to respond to the principal concerns then and there  
14. expressed.\*

15.

16. Mr. Joseph and Mrs. Van Cleve, on behalf of the Government of the  
17. United States, and Mr. Winkel, on behalf of the Government of the Trust  
18. Territory, offered the following assurances:

19.

20. I. The Government of the United States considers itself generally  
21. responsible for the well being of the Bikini people and their descendents  
22. and, following consultation with them, the Government of the United States  
23. will seek to arrange their relocation, permanently, in the most satisfactory  
24. manner possible. The Department of the Interior will undertake to obtain  
25. such authority and such resources as may be required in order to meet and

\*On August 14, 1978, soon after the Bikini and Kili meetings, the four officers referred to above were involved in a major airplane accident off the coast of Guam. Although they were among the survivors, their notes taken at the meetings sunk with the airplane. This statement, drafted by Mrs. Van Cleve on August 15 at the Guam Naval Hospital is intended to be as full as recollections permit, but in the circumstances it may not be complete.

1. discharge this responsibility. The Department of the Interior will call upon  
2. other agencies of the United States Government to assist it, particularly the  
3. Department of Energy, so as to assure that, among other things, the medical  
4. needs of the current residents of Bikini Island continue to be met.

5.  
6. II. Because Kili Island has, until recent weeks, been regarded as  
7. solely a temporary relocation site for the people of Bikini, the Governments  
8. have never undertaken to construct permanent facilities there, nor to improve  
9. significantly any of the existing Kili facilities. It is now known that  
10. Bikini Island will not be fit for human habitation for decades to come, and  
11. on the basis of the most recent scientific information, it appears that Eneu  
12. Island, in the Bikini Atoll, will also be unavailable for settlement. In  
13. the circumstances, the Governments understand that some of the Bikini people  
14. will choose to remain on Kili indefinitely, and the Governments will accord-  
15. ingly undertake a program for the permanent rehabilitation of Kili.

16.  
17. III. It is not yet possible to develop a permanent relocation plan  
18. for the people of Bikini. That plan must await completion of the aerial/  
19. radiological survey that is now underway, and that is expected to be com-  
20. pleted no later than the early weeks of 1979. When those survey results  
21. are available and evaluated, and when any remaining scientific tests found  
22. necessary are also completed, all of which developments are expected to  
23. occur in the first months of 1979, it will be possible to identify safe  
24. relocation sites. The Governments will then, following full consultation  
25. with the people of Kili (including the current residents of Bikini Island  
26. who will by then have relocated there), plan in detail for the relocation  
27. of such Kili residents as choose to move elsewhere, affording to them a  
28. choice among the possible relocation sites. Those who choose to remain on  
29. Kili will be accommodated there.

30.