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Reviewed by D. J. Hudson Date 5/1/97

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are primarily concerned with plutonium levels and the creation of possible health problems such as cancer, the sociological aspects were mentioned. Knowing of your interests at the time of the meeting probably wouldn't have helped much except that the next day I talked to several persons directly involved in the radiological surveys, communications with the Marshallese about relocation, etc. However, I could have supplied you specific information about ERDA's role and the status of the Bikini problem which might have been useful in preparation of your letter to Joe Maher, perhaps making it more effective in eliciting a response (hopefully, a positive one). On earlier occasions I participated in discussions of Enewetak.

I do not know how far ERDA intends to go with regard to the sociological aspects of the Marshallese problem. I think those of us who have attended meetings on the subject of rehabilitation of those islands agree that the sociological aspects probably outweigh the potential medical problems in arriving at a solution to the question of the final disposition of these Trust Territory islands.

I am enclosing a copy of a booklet prepared by ERDA to explain to the Marshallese people the potential radiation problem. It is a good example of the difficulties involved in dealing with the issue. When you are finished please return it to my office.

Please let me know whether you receive a reply from Joe Maher. I am willing to discuss your interests with Joe and others at ERDA including Jim Liverman. However, I believe they are more interested in a solution to the problem than in taking advantage of a unique opportunity to systematically investigate the processes associated with rehabilitation of a society of people. Thus, to arouse their genuine interest you will need to develop a different approach from that in your letter. You will have to define the problem and propose research that will solve it. For example, what should ERDA do to help the U.S. meet responsibilities to the Marshallese? This requires determining what action is in the best interest of the Marshallese and the U.S.

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