

REMARKS

Attached are the two documents mentioned in my TWX dated August 7.

DO NOT use this form as a RECORD of approvals, concurrences, disposals, clearances, and similar actions

FROM: (Name, org. symbol, Agency/Post)

Room No.—Bldg.

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criteria exposure in half for the people of Enewetak as individuals, and this was done. In short, for the people of Enewetak, the radiation criteria exposure standards were set at 250 mrem/yr to individuals. If we apply the same radiation criteria standard for the people of Bikini, then the Department of Energy advises that a return to Eneu Island cannot take place for 20-25 years even with imported food.

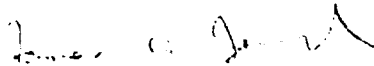
In the Department of the Interior we strongly believe that the U.S. Government cannot use different radiation exposure criterion for the people of Bikini than that which has been set for the people of Enewetak.

In that context, then, there is no question but that the island of Eneu must be placed off limits as a place of residence for the Bikini people for at least another 20-25 years.

This being the case, I believe these facts must be carefully discussed with and made known to the people of Bikini by you. We must ask them to accept this decision so that with them and their counsel all of us can now turn to the very pressing problem of where permanent resettlement can be arranged for the people of Bikini.

Copies of the Department of Energy's May 15, 1979, report, Radiological Implication for Resettlement of Eneu Island, have been provided to the Legal Counsel for the people of Bikini for his discussions also with his clients. I enclose for your information a copy of Mrs. Clusen's letter of May 15, together with its enclosure, as well as our letter of April 12.

Sincerely,



UNDER SECRETARY

Enclosure



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

Honorable Henchi Balos
Member of Parliament
Nitijela
Majuro, Marshall Islands 96960

JUN 1 1979

Dear Mr. Balos:

I am enclosing for your information a copy of the official letter sent by Under Secretary James A. Joseph to High Commissioner Winkel on the Eneu situation. I regret that the Under Secretary's absence from Washington precluded his signing this letter before you left for the meeting with the Bikini delegation in Honolulu last week. I did relay to the High Commissioner informally the gist of the Under Secretary's letter and I am sure that he communicated the decision to the Bikini delegation.

All of us here deeply regret that Eneu Island cannot be used for residence for at least another 20-25 years since we understand the deep feelings of the people of Bikini and their hopes, that even though Bikini Island is not useable now, Eneu Island possibly might have been. This is not now possible.

We must turn now to the very immediate and pressing problem of where resettlement can be arranged for the people of Bikini. I assure you that here in Interior this matter has the highest priority. We shall, in cooperation with the High Commissioner, the Government of the Marshalls, and the people of Bikini and their legal counsel, press forward to seek a satisfactory solution.

Please relay my warm regards to the people of Bikini. The welcome that they extended to Under Secretary Joseph, to Deputy Under Secretary Wallace Green and to me last August when we visited Bikini and Kili is one none of us will ever forget.

Sincerely yours,

RUTH G. VAN CLEVE
Mrs. Ruth G. Van Cleve
Director
Office of Territorial Affairs

Enclosure

Parliament, Marshall Islands, I have written to him and to Magistrate Tomaki Juda explaining why Eneu Island must be placed off limits as a place of residence for the people of Bikini for at least another 20-25 years. Copies of these letters also are enclosed for your information.

Sincerely yours,

RUTH G. VAN CLEVE

Mrs. Ruth G. Van Cleve
Director
Office of Territorial Affairs

Enclosure



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

JUN 1 1972

Magistrate Tomaki Juda
Kili-Bikini Council
Kili, Marshall Islands 96960

Dear Magistrate Juda:

I am enclosing for your information a copy of the official letter sent by Under Secretary James A. Joseph to High Commissioner Winkel on the Eneu situation. I regret that the Under Secretary's absence from Washington precluded his signing this letter in time for it to reach you for the meeting in Honolulu last week. I did relay to the High Commissioner informally the gist of the Under Secretary's letter and I am sure that he communicated the decision to you and others in the Bikini delegation.

All of us here deeply regret that Eneu Island cannot be used for residence for at least another 20-25 years since we understand the deep feelings of the people of Bikini and their hopes, that even though Bikini Island is not useable now, Eneu Island possibly might have been. This is not now possible.

We must turn now to the very immediate and pressing problem of where resettlement can be arranged for the people of Bikini. I assure you that here in Interior this matter has the highest priority. We shall, in cooperation with the High Commissioner, the Government of the Marshalls, and the people of Bikini and their legal counsel, press forward on all fronts to seek a satisfactory solution.

Please relay my warm regards to the people of Bikini. The welcome that they extended to Under Secretary Joseph, to Deputy Under Secretary Wallace Green and to me when we visited Bikini and Kili last August is one none of us will ever forget.

Sincerely yours,

RUTH G. VAN CLEVE
Mrs. Ruth G. Van Cleve
Director
Office of Territorial Affairs

Enclosure

REPOSITORY PNNL
COLLECTION Marshall Islands
BOX No. 5686
FOLDER Enewetak Aug - Sept 1979

DOCUMENT DOES NOT CONTAIN ECI

Reviewed by RJ Schmitt Date 4/30/97