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MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (Operations and Support) (Policy & Affairs)

SUBJECT: Plans for Eniwetok to TTPI

1. Reference is made to your memorandum, 17 July 1972, subject as above, which requested this office to initiate planning to develop the work and resources required to clean up Eniwetok for the 1973-74 season.

2. In anticipation of this effort, DNA participated in a joint survey of Eniwetok in May 1972 to determine the nature and extent of contamination at an order of magnitude estimate. Information obtained during this survey, which was conducted alone might have been sufficient to estimate the cost and perhaps to make a preliminary estimate of the cost of cleanup. A later report from the AEC gave a preliminary estimate of the cost of cleanup to be \$35 million, which would be added to the cost of ocean burial.

3. Subsequent to the joint survey, a meeting was held between AEC and DNA at Germantown, Maryland, in July 1972 to jointly review the information obtained during the survey and to assist in developing a schedule of actions to be taken to clean up Eniwetok. The substance of the meeting was discussed in response to your memorandum. The conclusions reached at this meeting are summarized in the attached memorandum.

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L. BISHOP  
Major, USAF  
Dir. of  
Operations Administration

Op 26-80, Box 319  
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1. PURPOSE: The purpose of this report is to furnish information regarding the environmental impact of nuclear weapon tests and to provide a basis for formulating policy for the Department of Defense.

2. BACKGROUND

a. From 1944 to 1958 Eniwetok Atoll was the location of nuclear weapon tests. Much of the debris from these tests, including radioactive remains. About one-half of the atoll was the location of some test activities. For this period the past one and one-half years DNA has been interested in Eniwetok Atoll as a site for the PACE tests and the employment of explosives. The atoll is presently under the control of the Air Force which has an inactive Air Force Auxiliary Station on Eniwetok Island. A civilian contractor (SAMTEC, a General Electric subsidiary) is operating the facility under contract to the Air Force Command (SAMTEC).

b. On April 1972 the Commissioner, Honorable Edward E. Johnston and Representative Hiram Beyer Williams made a joint announcement that the U.S. was prepared to return Eniwetok to the jurisdiction of the Government of the Pacific Islands (TTPI) by the end of 1973. Informal talks began between the DNA representative and the representative of the U.S. action officer. The U.S. is currently planning for the return of Eniwetok to the TTPI.

c. A study team consisting of AEC, DOD and EPA personnel visited the atoll in May 1972 to determine the size of the cleanup job. A preliminary assessment of radiological hazard still existed on the island. The study team found that the islands of Eniwetok, Runit, and Eniwetok (including Eniwetok, Babelia, Yvonne and ~~Eniwetok~~). Eniwetok (including Eniwetok) may have been contaminated by a significant amount of plutonium, a highly toxic substance. The study team also found that the explosion of a high energy supercritical device was under test by the Air Force at Eniwetok.

d. The study team's report provides a best estimate based on this study. The study team's report is based on reaching assumptions. This was because of the uncertainty to the extent of radiological hazard on the atoll due to the unpredictability of the manner of dispersal of debris from nuclear weapon tests for radioactive debris, since accepted procedures for estimating environmental and political aspects are not available. The study team's estimate made by DNA was that the cost of cleanup for this cleanup.

AEC later had a report prepared by a contractor at estimate based on an analysis of the data. Their estimate placed the cost of the project at \$14 million, using deep sea burial for disposal of radioactive and other debris.

*the cost is 14 and ocean significant soil removal.*

3. DISCUSSION

a. On 1 August a joint meeting was held by the AEC and DNA representatives at the Government. AEC brought in representatives from their Naval Operations Office who were most familiar with the problem at Eniwetok and DNA brought in representatives from Field Command which is directly engaged with the Air Force Weapons Laboratory. The discussions reached in this meeting are summarized in the following general agreement was reached:

b. Overview

The single management concept will provide the most effective organization for the cleanup and accordingly the on-site effort in carrying out the cleanup. If the cleanup task is given to DOD, a committee of a Task Force similar to that used at Bikini is proposed. This would provide scientific support including the determination of radiological criteria (permissible level of radiation) and radiological evaluation and control of the cleanup.

It is believed that the cleanup can be accomplished without interference with the test series by scheduling the cleanup of the area after the tests are completed. Actually, there is some concern that the cleanup project from PACE since the presence of the cleanup capability is a general support capability at this remote location. The cleanup is a much higher level than it would be at other locations.

The return of the Atoll to the TTR is considered in the following principal categories: (a) planning and execution of the cleanup, (b) return of the atoll to a life (mainly sustained by the cleanup).

(4) The return of the Atoll to the High Seas is a result of the joint announcement of the return of the Atoll to the High Seas by the end of 1973 makes the time factor a critical factor. This is considered essential for the cleanup project. An interagency meeting be held to discuss the cleanup project concerned with the

13

existing conditions and make everyone aware of the need for immediate planning and action.

(4) The District should as use rights and real estate agencies in the area. The District should be made aware of the need to clean up the area and retain the real estate interest.

c. Administrative Requirements

(1) The District should out the plan to all agencies and that the District should be throughout the cleanup. The District in the rehabilitation of the island individuals should be used in the cleanup of the island in the camp. The District should be consulted as to the equipment to be left for the cleanup.

(2) The District should real property to be left on the USAF Real Estate Agency. The District should retain the real estate interest until the transfer of the island.

(3) The District should Micronesians and give them a voice in the cleanup. PACE and parties should be based on the cleanup. The District to challenge the cleanup plans do not meet the needs. The District considered essential to the cleanup on the plan. The District environmental statement should begin as soon as possible. The District debris has been left on the island.

d. Funding The District meeting, and the District those requirements.

The District should make everyone aware of the need for immediate planning and action in the cleanup.

real estate interest, such as the Federal Government of their requirements. If it is found infeasible, it may be prudent to

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should be maintained through- It is considered desirable representatives on the island use could be used to assist in the difficulty in following through. It is best they not be of course, they could work. The TTPJ must be and equipment are to be left for the cleanup.

action of the Atoll and the there are carried on the of jurisdiction of the the progressive transfer of and custody accepted by representative. The Air Force of the United States until

case of the role of the already filed a brief environmental statement for the People of Eniwetok. They may be expected on the cleanup if our Accordingly, it is considered justice be brought in a reasonable time. An environmental preparation should be made and other

of the Joint AEC-DOD discussion on funds to be used if it was thought

that the survey will be held for the interagency meeting. The plan is seeking to schedule the October-December radiological survey to collect 1000 samples at a cost of approximately \$100,000. DNA plans to fund certain logistical support for this survey as well as the preliminary radiological survey at a cost of about \$150,000.

e. General Comments

(1) The more detailed radiological survey of the atoll island will be scheduled to be commensurate in late September or October when the AEI research ship, PALUMBO, arrives on station. AEC is ~~providing \$100,000 available to initiate this survey~~ *survey and is seeking the additional \$100,000 within the agency* and DNA will provide transportation and make other base support available from the AEI and other normal Eniwetok assets.

(2) The more detailed engineering survey should be made concurrently in order to complete the radiological survey as well as to establish the information on radioactive debris as it is being removed. The activities are scheduled to be phased out during the period September - 5 December 1972, awaiting the completion of an environmental impact statement. Thus there will be no direct competition between PACE and this engineering survey for logistical support. DNA plans to provide the major support for this survey and plans to request assistance from the Pacific Ocean Division (POD), U.S. Department of Energy, in performing its engineering phase. The POD is located at the POD located at Kwajalein, 389 miles from Eniwetok.

*necessary analysis* (3) After a detailed survey such as this *and* can it be determined whether the islands can be made safe and reoccupied? Eniwetok is sufficiently free of contamination to be reoccupied by Eniwetokese. Also, at this time, the cost of cleanup of Runit Island is economic. It may be necessary for safety reasons to place a barrier around the island with the TTPI in order to control the area. This barrier should be placed

(4) The return of the native population to the islands can begin. There should be sufficient data available in January or February 1973 to determine the status of the food chain after which the islands can be reoccupied. Conceptually, it is assumed that the least contaminated islands will be reoccupied first. A blockade around the atoll chain will be required to be used for PACE

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after thorough consideration. With this flexibility, no conflict of interest can be expected and the most optimistic results are anticipated.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

a. The cleanup program to be adopted for the cleanup and removal of intermediate radionuclides be established by the Interagency Coordination Committee and to set a schedule of activities and interests of several departments to be included.

b. The cleanup program for the atoll to the TTPI be divided into the following phases:

- (1) Initial Assessment Phase
- (2) Cleanup Phase
- (3) Rehabilitation and Settlement Phase

and that primary responsibility for each of these be assigned a lead agency.

c. The agreement on the method of funding be obtained. All agencies are to provide the current radiological and engineering data required for development of suitable plans. Further support to the cleanup operation will be provided such support to the cleanup operation.

d. The cleanup program for the cleanup scheme which calls for initiation of actual cleanup operation after results of the October 1971 survey are known, and the schedule for the program be determined.

e. The representatives of the Department of Interior, the Department of Energy, the Emergency Commission, the following agencies and their representatives attend the Interagency Coordination Committee:

- (1) Department of Energy
- (2) Department of Interior
- (3) Department of Health, Education and Welfare
- (4) Department of Defense
- (5) Department of State
- (6) Environmental Protection Agency
- (7) Federal Emergency Management Agency
- (8) ~~Department of the Army~~
- (9) ~~Department of the Navy~~
- (10) ~~Department of the Air Force~~
- (11) ~~Department of the Coast and Geodetic Survey~~
- (12) ~~Department of the Interior~~
- (13) ~~Department of the Treasury~~
- (14) ~~Department of the Justice~~
- (15) ~~Department of the Agriculture~~
- (16) ~~Department of the Commerce~~
- (17) ~~Department of the Transportation~~
- (18) ~~Department of the Health, Education and Welfare~~
- (19) ~~Department of the Energy~~
- (20) ~~Department of the Emergency Commission~~
- (21) ~~Department of the Atomic Energy Commission~~
- (22) ~~Department of the Environmental Protection Agency~~
- (23) ~~Department of the Federal Emergency Management Agency~~
- (24) ~~Department of the Federal Reserve System~~
- (25) ~~Department of the General Services Administration~~
- (26) ~~Department of the Health, Education and Welfare~~
- (27) ~~Department of the Housing and Urban Development~~
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to be briefed on  
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