



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

326 (MHS-3-Radiation V/R

AEC Secretariat 74:

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JUL 9 5 1974

Dear Madam Chairman:

Since 1972, the displaced people of Enewetak Atoll have repeatedly requested that an advance party of about fifty people from Ujelang be allowed to return to Japtan Island on Enewetak. The request was made based on their assumption that the southern islands were radiologically safe and therefore there should be no barrier to a return to that portion of their homeland after being away over 25 years. We support this request but heretofore have been unable to entertain it until the Radiation Survey Report was completed and recommendations were forthcoming as to the safety of certain living patterns among other things.

We believe it is in the best interests of all the parties to take steps to return an advance party of Enewetakese to Japtan. This is also held to be desirable by the Trust Territory Government and they are prepared to offer logistic support to accomplish this. A preliminary plan for return is enclosed.

To this end, we request that the Atomic Energy Commission address the safety aspects of the proposed return and establish guidelines which include all restrictions necessary to reasonably insure the wellbeing of the returnees. We have had repeated assurances that if people were allowed to return they were aware that certain restrictions would be necessary and would abide by them.

Finally, we would appreciate it if these guidelines could be forthcoming before mid-August. We have tentative plans to meet with Trust Territory officials and the people of Enewetak in late August and believe it desirable that a joint statement be made at that time announcing our favorable response to their request to return an advance party to Japtan.

We are most appreciative of the Commission's work to date on the Enewetak problems and look forward to a continued good relationship leading to the final safe return of all the people of Enewetak.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd) Stanley S. Carpenter

Stanley S. Carpenter
Director of Territorial Affairs

Hon. Dixie Lee Ray, Chairman
Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D.C. 20545

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RECORD COPY

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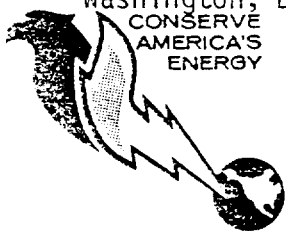
Sincerely yours,

Stanley S. Carpenter
Director of Territorial Affairs

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Hon. Dixie Lee Ray, Chairman
Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D.C. 20545

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AMERICA'S
ENERGY



74 JUL 9 PM 3:05

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Save Energy and You Serve America!

7-5-74

OCT 19, 1973

FROM MICHAEL
LEGAL
SUSS.

PRELIMINARY PLAN
FOR
RETURN OF ENEWETAKESE TO JAPTAN ISLAND

The Ujelang Council has met several times to consider expediting the return of the Enewetakese to their home atoll. It is generally agreed that a number of people could return to Enewetak, to Japtan Island, before new houses are built on the atoll and even before the construction is authorized or funded. The outline of the plan is as follows:

1. Number of people to return: About 50 people initially, including some women and children. The people themselves will decide who should return first. Later, when the first returnees have been able to construct some additional temporary dwellings, more people will move to Japtan.
2. Time of Move: As soon as possible; hopefully, in the first month or two of 1974.
3. Tasks to be performed at Japtan: Upon return to Japtan, the first 50 people, primarily the men, will spend several weeks to a couple of months preparing Japtan Island for temporary habitation by the Enewetakese. These tasks will include: (a) cleaning and repairing of existing buildings; (b) clearing of brush and undergrowth (c) installation of gutters on buildings

- (d) installation of six or seven water catchments, probably fiberglass and therefore of a removable nature.
 - (e) construction of one or two brackish water wells
 - (f) construction of additional houses, from surplus material gathered from Parry Island, or from used material gathered from Parry Island, or from used material brought from Ujelang.
 - (g) planting
4. Materials needed to complete (3) above, to be brought from Ujelang:
- (a) adequate supply of food for at least two months
 - (b) carpentry tools and supplies
 - (c) cuttings or seeds to be planted, especially pandanus and breadfruit.
 - (d) some livestock -- pigs and chickens
 - (e) house - building materials
5. Support needed from either Trust Territory or Department of Defense:
- (a) materials and/or technical help in construction of six or seven temporary water catchments
 - (b) one 20-30 ft boat with engine, capable of carrying building materials from Parry to Japtan
 - (c) generator and radio for emergency communication with Enewetak. Perhaps battery power is sufficient if radio contact with Enewetak Island facilities can

thereby be assured.

(d) field trip services to Japtan, on a fairly regular basis.

(e) at least one, and hopefully more, field trips between Ujelang and Japtan for the initial transfer of people and materials.

The Council wishes to emphasize that they are perfectly capable of living on Japtan without much help; that they are resourceful and can survive and thrive on Japtan as it now exists. They emphatically do not want to be told that they cannot go back to Japtan because there is no money to provide for the things listed above. Quite clearly this list is minimal -- under four or five thousand dollars, and this limited amount of money must be available somewhere. The housing that now exists on Japtan is in many ways better than the existing housing at Ujelang, and it makes little sense to argue that the return to Japtan is impossible because there is no housing.

HJB:bm