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AEC 125/26

October 17, 1955

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ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

REPATRIATION  
PREPARATION OF THE RONGELAPESE

AEC  
125  
26

Note by the Secretary

The General Manager has requested that the attached letter to the Deputy High Commissioner, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, be circulated for the information of the Commission

W. B. McCool

Secretary

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UNITED STATES  
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

October 5, 1955

Honorable Delmas H. Nucker  
Deputy High Commissioner  
Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands  
P.O. Box 542  
Agana, Guam, M. I.

Dear Mr. Nucker:

This is in reply to your letter of August 25, 1955\* requesting information relative to repatriation of the Rongelapese.

A more thorough analysis of the radiological data confirms our preliminary estimates. With the exception of one island (Naen), the external radiation levels for all islands should be below maximum permissible levels by December 1955. All islands should be at acceptable levels by late spring 1956. Whereas the activity found in fish is decreasing with time, extrapolation of presently known data would indicate that the earliest possible date that might be estimated for unrestricted consumption would be in the spring 1956.

An additional survey is now being planned for Rongelap Atoll and it is hoped that the data collected will be evaluated by December 1955 at which time we will be in a position again to make relevant recommendations. In view of this uncertainty it would appear advisable to defer any plans for repatriation at this time.

Sincerely yours,

Department of Energy  
Historian's Office  
ARCHIVES

K. E. Fields  
General Manager

Thru: Director, Insular Affairs  
Division, Office of Territories  
Department of the Interior  
Washington 25, D. C.

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\*Secretariat Note: On file in Division of Biology & Medicine.