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November 9, 1961

ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

RECOMMENDATION AGAINST FURTHER TESTING
IN ENIWETOK AND BIKINI ATOLLS

Note by the Secretary

The attached letter from James K. Carr, Acting Secretary of the Interior, is circulated for the information of the Commission. The letter has been referred to the General Manager for preparation of a reply for the Chairman's signature.

W. B. McCool

Secretary

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington 25, D. C.

NOV 3 1961

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This Department is deeply concerned over the possibility that Eniwetok and Bikini Atolls, in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, may again be used for the testing of atomic devices.

We sincerely hope that any future tests conducted by the United States will not take place within the Trust Territory. The United States administers the area under a trusteeship agreement with the United Nations and, under the agreement, is directly responsible for the well-being of the people of Micronesia. Atomic testing at Eniwetok and Bikini in the past has led to great concern in the United Nations with respect to the discharge of our obligations to the Micronesians, a concern which was greatly heightened by the accidental exposure of the people of Rongelap and Utirik to radioactive fallout in 1954 following a test at Bikini.

It is for these reasons -- our obligations to the people of Micronesia, who would have no voice, direct or indirect, in a decision to test nuclear devices in the area, and our position before world opinion as trustee for these people -- that we recommend against any further testing in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ JAMES K. CARR
Acting Secretary of the Interior

Hon. Glenn T. Seaborg
Chairman, Atomic Energy
Commission
Washington 25, D. C.

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