

1978

U.S. DOE ARCHIVES

De Bruin

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276 of Energy to answer

RG 326

Collection L. Joe Deal

277 Mr. Yates.

What I am trying to find out is what is the

278 entire picture?

Folder MARSHALL ISLANDS JAN-JUNE 1978

Presumably this morning you come in to tell

279 us about the results of the tests of the people on Bikini

280 and it is well that you do that, but are you going to come

281 in at some later time and tell us about the people on Utirik

282 and on Rongelap and say, at a later time "We are sorry. We

283 overlooked the possibility of there having been subjected to

284 the cesium and the strontium as the people on Bikini"?

285 Mr. Deal. Mr. Chairman, the Brookhaven <sup>Laboratory STD</sup> people who <sup>have</sup>

286 ~~monitored Brookhaven's Laboratories,~~ monitored both Rongelap

287 and Utirik for some time, and <sup>including doing</sup> ~~they~~ do whole body counts on

288 them. They have never seen anything like the levels that

289 they are seeing. There is some small residual contamination

290 there but it is not like it is on Bikini.

291 Mr. Yates. Didn't they do the monitoring on Bikini?

292 Mr. Deal. Yes, sir. It is the same group.

293 Mr. Yates. Why were they of the opinion that no real

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295 Mr. Deal. This was the basis of earlier, as I mentioned  
296 when we were here before----

297 Mr. Yates. Of earliest tests?

298 Mr. Deal. Of earlier information on the food uptake and  
299 the dose predictions.

300 Mr. Yates. All right, go ahead.

301 What suddenly changed this situation?

302 Mr. Deal. I have a slide on this, sir.

303 Mr. Yates. All right, you are coming to the bottom line.

304 Mr. Deal. Yes, sir. This is just a chronology of the  
305 tests that took place and the rehabilitation of Bikini.

306 There are two slides on this, and I have some copies to

307 leave with you. I think we have mentioned that our goal was

308 to stay within the Federal standards, and these are the

309 Federal standards that we are shooting for. We are trying

310 to live within the 0.5 rem per year per individual, and the

311 5 rem/30 years.

312 Mr. Duncan. You are getting into a conversational tone.

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504 Mr. Winkel. U.S. Department of Agriculture foods and  
505 fresh foods from Ponape, and water was delivered, I do not  
506 know myself in what quantities.

507 Perhaps the District Administrator could respond to that,  
508 because he has accompanied one of the shipments in the first  
509 instance.

510 Mr. Yates. Let's hear from him.

511 What we are trying to find out obviously is why they went  
512 back to the coconuts and the milk if they were warned  
513 against eating the coconuts and the milk?

514 Mr. O. deBrum. I am the Deputy Administrator of the  
515 islands.

516 Coconut is something that the people can see. They will  
517 drink it. They do that even when we visit the island  
518 periodically. They offer us coconuts to drink, so as long  
519 as they have coconuts in their surroundings, I do believe  
520 that they will drink it. DOE ARCHIVES

521 Mr. Yates. Even in the face of warnings not to drink it?

522 Mr. O. deBrum. Yes, sir.

523 Mr. Yates. Then they continue to eat the coconut and  
524 drink the milk and eat the food that the government gives  
525 them.

526 Mr. O. deBrum. The last time I was there they were still  
527 eating the coconuts. They have been told not to eat them.  
528 To stop them from eating that, sir, we have to remove the  
529 people from the islands or cut down the total number of  
530 trees.

531 Mr. Yates. That is the only way you can do it.

532 Is there anything else contaminated that they eat besides  
533 coconuts?

534 Mr. O. deBrum. Bananas and other local subsistence crops.

535 Mr. Yates. Are those infected too?

536 MR. O. deBrum. We are told they are infected also.

537 Mr. Yates. All right, go ahead, Mr. Deal.

538 Mr. Deal. The last slide, you asked us to tell you the  
539 status of what we knew of Enu<sup>e</sup> Island. DOE ARCHIVES

540 Mr. Yates. We would like to know what the status of  
541 Bikini is as well.

580 strontium in 1968?

581 Mrs. Van Cleve. I have to pass that question to the  
582 experts on whom we relied in 1968.

583 Mr. Yates. We keep going from tinkers to evers to chance  
584 here.

585 Mr. Deal. I am sorry, Mr. Chairman, ~~there were no~~  
586 ~~coconuts to test; at that time, because all that had been~~  
587 ~~maxim. of radioactivity in coconuts to support the decision~~  
588 ~~cleaned out, and so there were no coconuts to test at that~~  
*It is my understanding that most of the Bikini Island  
trees were destroyed by the raid there were only a few  
coconuts to test; at that time, because all that had been  
maxim. of radioactivity in coconuts to support the decision  
cleaned out, and so there were no coconuts to test at that  
time. Done production that was in 1968.*

589 Mr. Yates. In 1968.

590 Mr. Deal. Yes, sir.

591 Mr. Yates. When that decision was made.

592 Mr. Deal. Yes, sir.

593 Mr. Yates. What about the water and what about the other  
594 foods? *While there was arrowroot and a few pandanus trees, a non-radioactivity growing on  
Bikini Island in 1967,*

595 Mr. Deal. ~~There were no other foods growing there. There~~  
596 ~~were no foodstuffs growing.~~ *I understand initially* *sufficient to sample the island*  
*Crop*

597 the best information people could get from what they knew  
598 about uptake of cesium and strontium in other kinds of *and Next*  
*Part*

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599 foods, and trying to <sup>determine</sup> ~~extrapolate that~~ to what it would be  
600 for foods grown in island conditions, such as the Marshalls.  
601 They did not have the data <sup>for a direct assessment using all important local</sup> ~~to do this~~, but they did have <sup>gr</sup>  
602 data from <sup>other</sup> places <sup>and for other conditions</sup> in the United States, and they assumed that  
603 the situation would be somewhat similar, and that they could  
604 make these judgments, ~~and~~ at the time I think it was  
605 understood, at least by the panel that made the initial  
606 recommendations, that we couldn't clean the atoll  
607 completely. You can't get rid of the residuals from the  
608 test, but <sup>they</sup> ~~we~~ felt when you looked at the <sup>estimate of</sup> doses that <sup>people</sup> ~~they~~  
609 would receive, that <sup>these</sup> ~~they~~ would <sup>be acceptable, and</sup> ~~be below the standards~~ or  
610 <sup>meet the</sup> ~~within the~~ standards.

611 Mr. Yates. What were they supposed to eat when they  
612 returned there? What were they supposed to drink? If there  
613 is no food on the island, what were they supposed to eat?

614 Mr. Deal. I didn't make those recommendations, sir. I  
615 was brought into this at a later date. DOE ARCHIVES

616 Mr. Yates. Has anybody read the report of the experts?

617 Mrs. Van Cleve. I have it before me, Mr. Chairman.