

ROUTING AND TRANSMITTAL SLIP

Date 7/9/79

C19

TO: (Name, office symbol, room number, building, Agency/Post)	Initials	Date
1. Ruth Clusen, ASEV		
2. Jim Liverman, DASEV		
3. Hal Hollister, SA/ASEV		
4. Joe Deal, OESD		
5. Tommy McCraw, OESD		

Action	File	Note and Return
Approval	For Clearance	Per Conversation
As Requested	For Correction	Prepare Reply
Circulate	For Your Information	See Me
Comment	Investigate	Signature
Coordination	Justify	

REMARKS

For your info. Dr. Hugh Pratt, Dr. Walter Weyzen, and I discussed the Likiep situation during a meeting on July 6 and Dr. Pratt and I met with Mrs. Van Cleve and her staff on the matter that afternoon. We agreed on a general course of action which will be outlined in a letter from DOE to DOI. This letter should come to you for concurrence shortly. The issue of a radiological survey of the areas indicated and of the residents thereof has not yet been discussed with Interior. I will be discussing it with our own people as soon as possible.

US FOREIGN AFFAIRS

ERIC 326

Collection L. Joe Deal

Box 13

Folder MARSHALL ISLANDS 1979-1980

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FROM: (Name, org. symbol, Agency/Post)	Room No.—Bldg.
Dr. Bruce Wachholz	Phone No. 353-4365

5041-102

U.S. GPO: 1979-261-447/3310

OPTIONAL FORM 41 (Rev. 7-76)  
Prescribed by GSA  
FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.206



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

JUN 29 1979

Mr. Bryant S. Zebedy  
Clerk of the Marshall Islands Nitijela  
Post Office Box 24  
Majuro, Marshall Islands 96960

Dear Mr. Zebedy:

I wish to acknowledge on behalf of Secretary Andrus, the receipt of the certified copy of Resolution No. 15 N.D.-1 of the Nitijela, "A Resolution requesting the Government of the United States of America to immediately conduct a radiological survey in the Marshall Islands."

I feel constrained to point out that paragraph 4 of this resolution makes a very broad and sweeping statement, that as far as I am aware of, is not borne out by recent radiological data. This is the statement, "Whereas, recent radiological data, accumulated by the United States Government indicates an extraordinarily high incidence of apparently radiological induced physical disorders among Marshallese residents, outside what was originally thought to be the range of contamination caused by the nuclear explosions at Bikini and Enewetak; particularly, on Likiep Atoll and Wotje Atoll".

Recently, when the Marshall Islands Political Status Delegation was here in Washington, it raised this question with respect to Likiep Atoll but the question rested not on "recent radiological data accumulated by the United States", but rather on data collected by a Marshall Islands Likiep survey team and presented to the Department of Energy and to our Department by the Secretary of Foreign Affairs for the Marshall Islands Government, Mr. Anton DeBrum, at a meeting here on May 16, 1979.

This Department and the Department of Energy assured Mr. DeBrum that priority attention would be given to the request that a medical survey be conducted of the people of Likiep Atoll.

#### DOE ARCHIVES

We will discuss the other aspects of the resolution, i.e., the portions requesting a radiological survey of the Northern Marshalls, with the Department of Energy. It appears to me that most, if not all, of this request may have been met by the recent radiological survey conducted on

cc: Dr. Bruce Wachholz, DOE, with copy  
of enclosure

13 atolls in the Northern Marshalls. The preliminary results of the Northern Marshalls Radiological Survey will be available by Mid-July. You may be assured that the Nitijela will receive copies of any report issued by the Department of Energy.

In any event, both this Department and the Department of Energy, have pledged to work closely with the new government of the Marshalls on the question of radiological matters and we will be in constant touch with local government officials.

Sincerely yours,

RUTH G. VAN CLEVE

Mrs. Ruth G. Van Cleve  
Director  
Office of Territorial Affairs

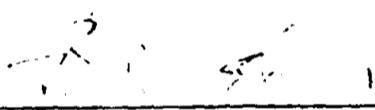
DOE ARCHIVES

Original No. 102

MARSHALL ISLANDS NITIJELA  
Office of the Clerk of the Nitijela  
Post Office Box 24  
Majuro, Marshall Islands 96960  
June 15, 1979

To: The Secretary  
Department of Interior  
C Street Between Eighteenth &  
Nineteenth Streets, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

I, BRYANT S. ZEBEDY, Clerk of the Marshall Islands Nitijela, hereby certify that attached hereto is an accurate and complete copy of Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_, which was duly adopted by the Marshall Islands Nitijela in its 1st Constitutional Special Session, on the 4th day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1979.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bryant S. Zebedy  
Clerk of the Marshall Islands Nitijela

DOE ARCHIVES

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**A RESOLUTION**

Requesting the government of the United States of America to immediately conduct a radiological survey in the Marshall Islands.

1           WHEREAS, 43 nuclear explosions were detonated by the United  
2 States government at Enewetak Atoll between 1948 and 1958, all without  
3 the knowledgeable consent of the Marshallese people who were or could  
4 have been affected by the contamination produced by those explosions; and

5           WHEREAS, 26 nuclear explosions were detonated by the United  
6 States government at Bikini Atoll between 1946 and 1958, all without the  
7 knowledgeable consent of the Marshallese people who were or could have  
8 been affected by the contamination produced by those explosions; and

9           WHEREAS, the effects of these nuclear explosions have been  
10 disastrous, not only to the environments of Bikini and Enewetak, but  
11 also to the people in the range of the effects of those explosions  
12 beyond Bikini and Enewetak; and

13           WHEREAS, recent radiological data, accumulated by the United  
14 States government, indicates an extraordinarily high incidence of  
15 apparently radiologically induced physical disorders among Marshallese  
16 residents, outside what was originally thought to be the range of  
17 contamination caused by the nuclear explosions at Bikini and Enewetak;  
18 particularly, on Likiep Atoll and Wotje Atoll; and

19           WHEREAS, Likiep Atoll and Wotje Atoll are approximately 300  
20 miles from the sites of the nuclear explosions, great concern and  
21 anxiety has spread among the residents of those islands and atolls in  
22 the vicinity of the outer range of 300 miles from the nuclear test  
23 sites, concerning their own health and well-being and that of their  
24 progeny; and

25           WHEREAS, the nuclear tests and the newly discovered apparent  
26 effects of those tests constitute a serious departure from the obligations  
27 of the United States government to the people of the Marshall Islands,

DOE ARCHIVES

1 pursuant to Section 3 of Article 6 of Trusteeship Agreement between the  
2 United States and the United Nations; and

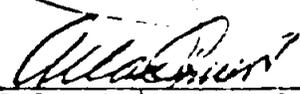
3 WHEREAS, it is the primary responsibility of the United States  
4 government to protect the health of the inhabitants of the Trust  
5 Territory; now therefore,

6 IT IS RESOLVED that the United States government, with the  
7 participation of the United Nations, immediately embark upon a radiological  
8 survey of those waters and land areas in the Marshall Islands, north of  
9 latitude 8 degrees North, including all of Namu Atoll, to determine  
10 the levels of radioactivity in that area; to determine whether or not  
11 there are new cases of contamination among the residents of that area;  
12 and to identify those physical disorders in the residents of that area,  
13 which may be attributable to the radiological contamination of the  
14 environment caused by the nuclear explosions on Bikini and Enewetak.

15 IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that complete copies of the findings,  
16 conclusions and recommendations resulting from such survey or surveys,  
17 be delivered to the government of the Marshall Islands, promptly upon  
18 their determination.

19 IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution  
20 be sent to the President of the United States; the Trusteeship Council  
21 of the United Nations; the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory of  
22 the Pacific Islands; and the Secretary of the Interior of the United  
23 States.

24  
25 Certified, as adopted, this 4th day of June, 1979.

26  
27   
28 Atlan Anien, Speaker

29 Attested: June 14 1979

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31   
Bryant S. Zebedy, Clerk