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United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

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JUL 0 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,

Stanley S. Carpenter
Director of Territorial Affairs

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



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