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PRELIMINARY PLAN
FOR
RETURN OF ENEWETAKESE TO JAPTAN ISLAND

The Ujelang Council has met several times to consider expediting the return of the Enewetakese to their home atoll. It is generally agreed that a number of people could return to Enewetak, to Japtan Island, before new houses are built on the atoll and even before the construction is authorized or funded. The outline of the plan is as follows:

1. Number of people to return: About 50 people initially, including some women and children. The people themselves will decide who should return first. Later, when the first returnees have been able to construct some additional temporary dwellings, more people will move to Japtan.
2. Time of Move: As soon as possible; hopefully, in the first month or two of 1974.
3. Tasks to be performed at Japtan: Upon return to Japtan, the first 50 people, primarily the men, will spend several weeks to a couple of months preparing Japtan Island for temporary habitation by the Enewetakese. These tasks will include: (a) cleaning and repairing of existing buildings; (b) clearing of brush and undergrowth (c) installation of gutters on buildings (and possibly on the existing buildings)

- (d) installation of six or seven water catchments, probably fiberglass and therefore of a removable nature.
 - (e) construction of one or two brackish water wells
 - (f) construction of additional houses, from surplus material gathered from Parry Island, or from used material gathered from Parry Island, or from used material brought from Ujelang.
 - (g) planting
4. Materials needed to complete (3) above, to be brought from Ujelang:
- (a) adequate supply of food for at least two months
 - (b) carpentry tools and supplies
 - (c) cuttings or seeds to be planted, especially pandanus and breadfruit.
 - (d) some livestock -- pigs and chickens
 - (e) house - building materials
5. Support needed from either Trust Territory or Department of Defense:
- (a) materials and/or technical help in construction of six or seven temporary water catchments
 - (b) one 20-30 ft boat with engine, capable of carrying building materials from Parry to Japtan
 - (c) generator and radio for emergency communication with Enewetak. Perhaps battery power is sufficient if radio contact with Enewetak Island facilities can

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thereby be assured.

(d) field trip services to Japtan, on a fairly regular basis.

(e) at least one, and hopefully more, field trips between Ujelang and Japtan for the initial transfer of people and materials.

The Council wishes to emphasize that they are perfectly capable of living on Japtan without much help; that they are resourceful and can survive and thrive on Japtan as it now exists. They emphatically do not want to be told that they cannot go back to Japtan because there is no money to provide for the things listed above. Quite clearly this list is minimal -- under four or five thousand dollars, and this limited amount of money must be available somewhere. The housing that now exists on Japtan is in many ways better than the existing housing at Ujelang, and it makes little sense to argue that the return to Japtan is impossible because there is no housing.

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