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United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

JUL 17 1975

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On March 7, 1975, my predecessor, Rogers Morton, informed you by letter of the current situation regarding the rehabilitation and resettlement of the Bikini Atoll in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. You were advised in that letter that recently developed radiological information indicated that a comprehensive follow-on survey conducted by the Energy Research and Development Administration would be necessary before the resettlement project could proceed as desired by the Bikini people and this Administration. Deputy Secretary of Defense William P. Clements, in his letter of May 29, 1975, indicated that the Defense Department could not be responsive to former Secretary Morton's request that it provide logistic support on a non-reimbursable basis to the ERDA survey.

You are no doubt additionally aware that, as a result of the interdepartmental effort which was involved in the comprehensive survey of Enewetak Atoll, the need for complete and comprehensive surveys and data collections from all of the atolls affected by nuclear testing has become very clear. At an interagency meeting held at Interior on June 25, 1975, representatives from ERDA detailed a plan to perform these surveys and set forth an estimated one-time project cost of \$3 million. Approximately one half of this cost is involved in the survey's technical aspects which ERDA can absorb; the other \$1.5 million is the estimated cost for logistic support.

The Interior Department is hopeful that you will review your previous position in light of this new information and the commitment of ERDA to fund its share of the survey project. The United States Government has a long-standing commitment to the people of these atolls for their safe return. We look forward to an early positive decision from your Department on the matter of logistic support so that the necessary follow-up survey work can proceed expeditiously and the people can be returned with every assurance of their well-being.

Sincerely yours,

/S/ KENT FRIZZELL

Acting Secretary of the Interior

Hon. James R. Schlesinger
Secretary of Defense
Washington, D.C. 20301



cc: Mr. Joe Deal, ERDA, Washi

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