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JOINT MESSAGEFORM					SECURITY CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED					
PRIO	EXT. RELEASE TIME			PRECEDENCE		CLASS	SPECAT	LMF	CIC	ORIG/MSG IDENT
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01-06	241901Z	JAN	90	RR		UUUU				FC241301
8004	MESSAGE HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS									

FROM: FCDNA KIRTLAND AFB NM//FC//
 TO: DNA WASHINGTON DC//DIR//

*US mail
1/24/90*

UNCLAS ~~SECRET~~

PERSONAL FOR MG WATSON FROM BG DICKEY

SUBJ: CLEANUP OF RUNIT ISLAND AT ENEWETAK ATOLL

1. A DRAFT RESPONSE TO AMEMBASSY, MAJURO, ON SUBJECT FOLLOWS FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION:

- "DNA WASHINGTON DC//DIR//
- AMEMBASSY MAJURO
- INFO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 1313
- RUEKJOS/SECDEF WASHDC//ISA//
- RUHOSSG/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI
- RUHNBAA/CDRUSAKA KWAJALEIN NO//CSSD-K/CSSD-KO//
- US DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
- DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
- FCDNA KIRTLAND AFB NM//FC//

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SUBJ CLEANUP OF RUNIT ISLAND AT ENEWETAK ATOLL

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EDWARD T. BRAMLITT HEALTH PHYSICIST FCLH/4-2626			
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JAMES L. BAILEY, CAPT, USN REP CDR		UNCLASSIFIED	
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*Kind
Harry Brown's Files, NV*

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BOOK MESSAGE HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS

REF: YOUR MSG, 092336Z JAN 90, SUBJECT AS ABOVE.

- THIS GIVES MY PERSONAL EVALUATION OF THE RMI REQUEST TO CLEANUP RUNIT ISLAND AND MY VIEWS ON TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS OF A RUNIT CLEANUP.
- DURING THE PERIOD, 1977-1980, PLUTONIUM (PU) SOIL FROM FIVE ENEWETAK ATOLL ISLANDS AND SOME PU SOIL FROM RUNIT ISLAND WAS SAFELY CONTAINED IN A CRATER ON RUNIT WITH CEMENT AND A THICK CONCRETE CAP. THE BULK OF RUNIT PU SOIL, HOWEVER, WAS LEFT IN PLACE AND COVERED WITH CLEAN SOIL TO REDUCE SURFACE CONCENTRATIONS TO SAFE LEVELS. THE LOOSE SOIL COVER PROVIDES PROTECTION AS LONG AS IT IS IN PLACE. IT DOES NOT ENSURE THAT SUBSURFACE CONTAMINATION WILL REMAIN UNAVAILABLE TO ANY FUTURE RUNIT INHABITANTS. SUBSURFACE CONTAMINATED SOIL ON THE ISLAND AND IN THE LAGOON IS THE REASON THAT THE RUNIT QUARANTINE WAS ~~CONTAINED~~ **CONTINUED** AFTER THE 1980 CLEANUP. THE VOLUME OF UNCONTAINED CONTAMINATED SOIL ON RUNIT IS IN THE RANGE OF 100K TO 200K CUBIC YARDS.
- WE (DNA) ARE TESTING MINING METHODS AS A MEANS FOR CLEANING SOIL OF PU, AND ARE APPLYING MODERN COMPUTER METHODS AND RADIATION DETECTION CAPABILITIES TO DIFFERENTIATE CLEAN SOIL FROM

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<p>CONTAMINATED SOIL. OUR APPROACH HAS BEEN METHODOICAL, WITH TESTS FIRST IN A LABORATORY AND THEN IN A PILOT PLANT. IN 1988, WE BUILT A FULL-SCALE CLEANUP PLANT AT JA TO CLEAN 1,000 CUBIC YARDS OF SOIL PER WEEK. INITIAL TESTS IN 1989 REDUCED CONTAMINATED SOIL VOLUME BY 80 PERCENT, AND PINPOINTED AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENTS WHICH MAY EVENTUALLY LEAD TO VOLUME REDUCTIONS OVER 95 PERCENT. WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF SELECTING A CONTRACTOR TO MAKE PLANT UPGRADES AND OPERATE THE PLANT TO CLEAN ALL JA SOIL. CONTRACT AWARD IS EXPECTED NEXT MONTH, WITH PLANT UPGRADES REQUIRING 3 TO 6 MONTHS, AND COMPLETE SOIL CLEANUP TAKING ANOTHER 24 MONTHS. SOME R&D WILL BE CONTINUED DURING THE CLEANUP.</p> <p>4. I AGREE THAT ANY ATTEMPT TO START CLEANING RUNIT NOW WOULD BE PREMATURE. OUR PLANT IS STILL BEING PERFECTED. DUPLICATING IT NOW WOULD BE COSTLY (ABOUT \$2M) AND UNWISE. WE HAVE LITTLE OPERATING EXPERIENCE, AND BELIEVE SIGNIFICANT LESSONS ARE YET TO BE LEARNED. FURTHERMORE, EVEN WHEN OUR CLEANUP TECHNOLOGY IS PERFECTED AT JA, THE SCOPE OF RUNIT CLEANUP WILL BE CONSIDERABLY MORE DIFFICULT AND COSTLY. JA HAS THE REQUIRED SUPPLIES OF ELECTRICITY AND FRESH WATER, A MOTOR POOL, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, AND</p>										
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AN ESTABLISHED ~~FROM~~ SUPPLY LINE. THESE ASSETS DO NOT EXIST AT RUNIT. A LARGER ~~TO~~ WORK FORCE OF SKILLED CONTRACTOR PERSONNEL AND MORE SUPPORT EQUIPMENT BACKUP WOULD BE ESSENTIAL AT RUNIT BECAUSE OF ITS REMOTENESS.

5. IN GENERAL TERMS, A RUNIT CLEANUP MIGHT FOLLOW THIS SCENARIO. WHEN JA CLEANUP IS COMPLETE, ASSEMBLE ON RUNIT THE SOIL CLEANUP PLANT, HEAVY EQUIPMENT, RADIATION MEASUREMENT INSTRUMENTS, SAFETY EQUIPMENT, PERSONAL COMPUTERS, AND GEOGRAPHIC POSITIONING SYSTEMS. ANCHOR A SHIP OR BARGE IN THE LAGOON OR ERECT A CAMP ON RUNIT WITH FACILITIES FOR ABOUT 25 CLEANUP PERSONNEL AND WITH THE CAPABILITY TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE SUPPLIES OF FRESH WATER AND ELECTRICITY FOR THE CLEANUP PLANT. MAINTAIN AND UPGRADE THE BASE CAMP AT ENEWETAK ISLAND TO ACCOMMODATE ABOUT 15 ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL, FOR A TOTAL PROJECT WORK FORCE OF 40. USE MARSHALLESE LABOR WHEN POSSIBLE. USE U.S. ACTIVITIES AT KWAJELEIN FOR LOGISTICS SUPPORT AND SOME EQUIPMENT. AFTER PLANT SETUP AND CHECKOUT, PROCESS RUNIT SOIL CONTINUOUSLY DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS AND, IF FEASIBLE, ON A 24-HOUR BASIS. IN ADDITION TO ISLAND CONTAMINATION, DREDGE CONTAMINATED SEDIMENT FROM THE LAGOON FOR CLEANUP IF APPROPRIATE. SEND WASTE

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(PROBABLY FLOWS THAN 10K CY SOIL CONCENTRATED WITH PU} BY SHIP AND TRUCK TO AN ESTABLISHED RADIOACTIVE WASTE HANDLING FACILITY IN CONUS. LEAVE THE CRATER-DOME AS IS. BASED ON OUR CURRENT EXPECTATIONS, ALL RESTRICTIONS CAUSED BY PU AT RUNIT NOW COULD BE LIFTED WHEN THE PROJECT IS COMPLETE. HOWEVER, SINCE OUR PLANT DOES NOT REMOVE FISSION PRODUCTS FROM SOIL, LIKE OTHER NORTHERN ISLANDS OF ENEWETAK ATOLL, NEW RESTRICTIONS MIGHT BE REQUIRED.

6. REALISTIC COST ESTIMATES FOR RUNIT CLEANUP USING JA ASSETS WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE UNTIL WE AWARD THE JA CONTRACT AND GAIN OPERATING EXPERIENCE. ALSO, RUNIT CLEANUP WILL REQUIRE EQUIPMENT NOT NEEDED AT JA (EG, RUNIT ISLAND-ENEWETAK ISLAND COMMUTER BOATS, A TRAILER LABORATORY FOR RADIOCHEMISTRY, EQUIPMENT REPAIRS AND CALIBRATION, AND VARIOUS BACKUP SYSTEMS}. SOME CAPABILITIES AVAILABLE AT JA AS REQUIRED MUST BE PLANNED FOR AT RUNIT TO AVOID COSTLY DOWNTIMES. OUR INITIAL GUESTIMATE IS OVER \$11M, PLUS COST FOR BASE CAMPS AND SPECIAL LOGISTICS.

7. I AGREE WITH YOUR COMMENT THAT A RUNIT CLEANUP WOULD BE BENEFICIAL. IN ADDITION TO DEMONSTRATING GOODWILL ON THE PART OF THE U.S., A SUCCESSFUL CLEANUP OF THE CONTAMINATED SITE WOULD

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<p>PERMIT RESTORING OVER 90 ACRES OF VALUABLE LAND AT ENEWETAK, IMPROVE THE OVERALL ENVIRONMENT, AND POSSIBLY HELP THE MARSHALLESE GAIN EMPLOYMENT AND JOB SKILLS. THERE WOULD ALSO BE SATISFACTION IN COMPLETING A JOB WHICH WAS TECHNOLOGICALLY IMPOSSIBLE IN 1980.</p> <p>8. THERE ARE MANY CHALLENGES YET TO BE RESOLVED AT JA. IF WE ARE SUCCESSFUL, A RUNIT CLEANUP IS TWO TO FOUR YEARS AWAY. STILL, NOW IS THE TIME TO BEGIN LONG-RANGE PLANNING AND COORDINATION. I BELIEVE WE SHOULD ARRANGE AN INITIAL PLANNING MEETING IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO IDENTIFY A LEAD AGENCY AND ASSIGN CRITICAL TASKS. I INVITE COGNIZANT AGENCIES TO CONTACT MY STAFF (714/325-7013) TO EXPRESS THEIR WILLINGNESS TO HELP DEVELOP A DEFINITIVE PLAN FOR RUNIT CLEANUP AND PROVIDE POINTS OF CONTACT."</p> <p>9. WARM REGARDS. VERY RESPECTIVELY. J.P.D. SENDS.</p>										
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