



Department of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20585

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Encl #5

June 5, 1984

Mr. Roger Ray
Deputy for Pacific Operations
Nevada Operations Office
Department of Energy
P.O. Box 14100
Las Vegas, Nevada 89114-4100

Dear Roger,

I am certain that the enclosed letter from the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands only begins to describe the magnitude, scope, complexity, and diversity of your work in support of the Department of Energy's activities in the Pacific. In particular, the demands placed upon you in conjunction with the recent Congressional hearings on the Compact of Free Association have been time-consuming, challenging, and rigorous. You have met each of these in a totally responsive and professional manner which reflects most favorably on the entire Department.

I would like to add my sincere appreciation for a job well done to that expressed by Commissioner McCoy.

Sincerely,

Bill

William W. Hoover
Major General, USAF
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Military Application
Defense Programs

Enclosure:
Ltr fm McCoy to Hoover
dated May 25, 1984

cc: Mr. Thomas R. Clark, Manager
Nevada Operations Office, w/encl.

Roger Ray's Files



TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

SAIPAN, CM 96950

#5
CABLE ADDRESS:
"HICOTT SAIPAN"

May 25, 1984

Major General William W. Hoover
Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Military Application
U.S. Department of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20545

Dear General Hoover:

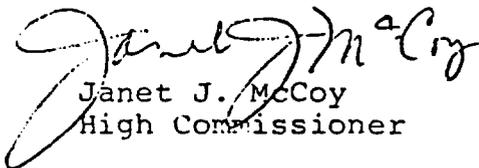
For the past three years I have relied upon Roger Ray and his staff for technical advice and assistance regarding the various projects located in the Trust Territory.

During the last few weeks, there have been frequent calls upon Roger for assistance during numerous critical phases of the Compact of Free Association approval process before both Houses of the United States Congress as well as requests for specialized information and assistance for the United States Delegation to the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations in New York.

One instance in particular occurred last week. A petitioner was extremely critical of the U.S. policy in the handling of radiological affairs in the Pacific. A member of my staff called Roger, as an authoritative source of facts, at 10:00 at night. Roger gave advice and drafting assistance in the U.S. position document to be delivered the next day. The result was a factually correct document that successfully clarified the U.S. position at the United Nations.

Thank you for the availability of Roger Ray and for DOE's continued willingness to assist the Trust Territory Administration during these important and critical times.

Sincerely,


Janet J. McCoy
High Commissioner

Statement by Ambassador Sherman in Response to Petitioner
Testimony on the Situation in the Northern Marshall Islands

Statements were made that of the 14 atolls considered to have been affected by fallout only two atolls have been given medical care. This statement indicates a total lack of understanding or direct misstatement of the facts. All of the northern hemisphere can be said to have been covered by fallout from atmospheric testing carried on by the United States, France, USSR, and China. The amount of fallout although measurable is not concentrated except in certain geographical areas in predictable proximity to the test site. The United States utilizing this data conducted a comprehensive radiological assessment in the Marshall Islands that included both background and terrestrial dose assessments. This dose assessment confirmed our belief regarding the areas of concentration. There were no areas where radioactive concentrations were larger than we suspected. Quite simply, areas closer to the test sites contained more radiation and areas further removed contained less.

In addition, we have not received any information about areas where effects are unknown.

To assert that the United States has provided health care to individuals only of the two atolls affected by radiation is equally proposterous. The United States has provided health care to all of the people of Micronesia and continues to do so as an obligation of the Trusteeship Agreement. In addition, separate specialized health care has been made available to the four affected Northern Marshall Island atolls and is provided free of care to any individual from anywhere in the Marshall Islands claiming radiation exposure.

Let me comment about the individuals providing the specialized health care. Brook Haven Laboratories is operated by a consortium of universities combined under the title of Associated Universities, Inc. The principal of the Brook Haven medical program is a staff physician, the balance of the specialists who administer health care come from independent institutions, universities, and hospitals across the United States and are not employed by the United States. These dedicated professionals volunteer to assist the Brook Haven programs and do so at great personal and professional sacrifice.

The Brook Haven doctors have done a great deal more than just radiation treatment. For instance, the most recent visit by the Brook Haven team was a pediatric visit.

All medical and scientific findings conducted by Brook Haven or Lawrence Livermore Laboratories are published in all available scientific journals. The various petitioners would not have the facts and data they espoused, albeit misstated, were it not for the United States policy of total non-classification of these important scientific studies.

The scientific and medical studies conducted have been the subject of many instances of international independent review. Let me cite two examples, in 1978 the Attorney for the people of Enewetak retained a panel of three scientists to review the dose assessments for Enewetak and to develop an independent risk assessment. This study was reported to the people of Enewetak in September of 1979 at Ujelang. Those three scientists were given total and free access to all data that the United States possessed regarding radiation, as well as free access to government scientists at Lawrence Livermore Laboratories and Brook Haven.

The report was published in open literature. Two years later the people of Bikini through their counsel retained an independent scientific group to review all government information regarding Bikini and to advise the people whether the information as reported by the United States Government was valid.

Both independent groups found that the US Governments work was scientifically sound and objective. No fault was found with the method, conclusions, or recommendations. Both reports have the published conclusion which says the Atomic Energy Commission work was carefully done and accurately reported.

Allegations have been made that the United States has further attempted to deny access to the Northern Marshalls by foreign physicians. The incident which the petitioner spoke of was another example of misstatement of fact. In the late 70's the High Commissioner authorized a visit by certain purported Japanese physicians. When these purported physicians arrived on Majuro it was discovered that the individuals were not physicians but were newspaper reporters who had falsified their credentials. They were expelled not because of any profession but because they had falsified their credentials to gain entry.

There are no examples where the United States has ever refused bona fied medical teams of any nationality to visit the Marshall Islands. The petitioner named two independent medical teams who gained entry. The world press including Japanese television and a recent British broadcasting corporation news team have also recently visited Rongelap and Utrik. The Administering Authority provides information and assistance to those members of the world press.

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To assist the citizens of the Marshall Islands to understand radiation and its effects a bilingual book was published in 1982. This book was personally delivered to every populated atoll contained in the Marshall Islands radiological survey, as well as to various members of the government, Marshall Islands legislature, and lawyers for the various groups. Accompanying this team were two skilled interpreters, a physician in private practice, and a scientist specializing in soil radiation. The team explained all aspects of the book, delivered same at public meetings. The various island populations read and discussed the report privately and then the US group returned for a second question and answer session.

Copies of this bilingual radiation report designed for the education of the people will be made available to the Trusteeship Council. This report has been available to the public and special interest groups for some time.

In conclusion, the Administrating Authority has taken its responsibility seriously not only to the radiation affected atolls but to all people of the Marshall Islands.