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REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

MAJURO, MARSHALL ISLANDS 96960 CABLE: REPMAR

October 2, 1987

MEMORANDUM

TO : Harry U. Brown
FROM : Peter N. Oliver
SUBJECT : Report on Meeting Regarding Continuation of Enewetak Food and Agricultural Support Program

Enclosed you will find a report on the discussion held in Majuro last week regarding the continuation of the Enewetak Food and Agricultural Support Program.

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Enewetak General 87

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HARRY BROWN'S Files, NV

REPORT ON MEETING CONCERNING
ENEWETAK FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT PROGRAM

September 21, 1987

A meeting of officials of the RMI, the United States Government, and the Enewetak Local Government Council took place on Monday morning, September 21, 1987, in the Office of the RMI Chief Secretary to discuss the five-year continuation of the special agricultural and food program at Enewetak that is mandated by Subsection 103(h)(2) of U.S. Public Law 99-239 and Senate Concurrent Resolution Number 171. The meeting had been requested by Larry L. Morgan, Director of Legislative and Public Affairs in the Office of Interior and International Affairs, who was seeking the appropriate agency to continue administrative support to the Enewetak program that had been previously provided by the TTPI Government.

In addition to Morgan, the United States Government was represented by Reynald deBrum, Majuro Field Representative of the Department of Energy. Representing the people of Enewetak were Senator Ishmael John, two members of the Council, and attorney David R. Anderson. RMI was represented by Chief Secretary Oscar deBrum, his assistant Peter N. Oliver, Secretary of Social Services Lawrence Edwards, Director of Food Services Zedkaiah Zedkaiah, and Nutritionist Ione Heine.

Morgan described the continuing responsibility for the Enewetak program that the United States Government has acknowledged in the Compact legislation. It was his understanding that the United States Government would count Fiscal Year 1988 as the first year of the five-year program.

In order to maintain previous levels of support for the program, Morgan requested that RMI assume three administrative responsibilities:

(1) RMI would enter into contract with the incumbent captain and engineer of the Wetak II motor sailer for a continuation of their services, with the captain's annual salary set at \$36,000 and the engineer's annual salary set at \$32,000;

(2) beginning with calendar year 1988, RMI would pay the annual insurance premium for the Wetak II in the amount of approximately \$17,000 to the current insurer, the R. L. Haugland Company of Seattle, Washington; and

(3) the RMI nutritionist would make quarterly trips to Enewetak to review the nutritional needs of the community and recommend the supplemental foods to be ordered for the community by the DOE contractor.

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According to Morgan, these three duties will be delineated in a US-RMI Memorandum of Understanding, a draft of which Morgan will soon send to Majuro for RMI consideration. The costs incurred by RMI for these support services will be borne by DOI.

Morgan explained that the Haugland Company was an agent for Lloyd's of London and that DOI could not conveniently deal with this insurer is because of the requirement in U.S. federal procurement regulations that such services be obtained by competitive bidding, which he hoped RMI would be able to circumvent.

There was considerable discussion regarding the scope of the work that would have to be undertaken by the nutritionist in performing the dietary analysis formerly done by a TTPI nutritionist. Morgan stated that Holmes and Narver, Inc., as the DOE contractor on-site, would schedule and fund the quarterly field trips by the nutritionist. Heine, who had accompanied the TTPI nutritionist on earlier trips to Enewetak, reported that each nutritional survey could be accomplished in one week's time. The Chief Secretary recommended that nutritionists from the University of Hawaii accompany the RMI nutritionist on the field trips to Enewetak, providing both technical expertise and training assistance. In response to an inquiry from the Chief Secretary regarding reports required from the nutritionist, Morgan stated that an annual report on the food support program is required to be submitted to the Appropriations Committees on December 1, that the financial drawdown reports would serve as the basis for the annual reports, and that the reports would continue to be compiled by DOI. Secretary Edwards expressed concern that RMI be fairly reimbursed for the work of the nutritionist and the general overhead costs of the food support program. Anderson requested that the RMI nutritionist, in the course of her work, produce a written statement of the nutritional needs of the Enewetak community and a listing of the foods she would recommend the DOE contractor purchase to meet those needs; Anderson further requested that the people of Enewetak be provided with the nutritionist's reports and lists of food.

Morgan reiterated earlier reports from DOE spokesmen that DOE intends to relinquish administration of the Enewetak support program. He and Anderson reported that House Appropriations staffer Kathy Johnson has strongly urged that administrative responsibility for the program be transferred to RMI and the Enewetak Local Government Council. As a result of recent meetings Morgan held with DOE officials in Las Vegas, DOI has directed DOE to continue the program through Fiscal Year 1988; at the same meetings, provision was made for the training of an Enewetakese administrator to eventually replace the DOE-contracted administrator in residence at Enewetak.

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Although Morgan had not brought from Washington the budget for the program, he recalled that, of a proposed budget of \$1.1 million for Fiscal Year 1988, approximately \$935,000 would be transferred to DOE to fund the Holmes and Narver contract to operate the agricultural station at Enewetak, purchase supplemental food, and pay the salaries of the crew of the Wetak II. The remainder of the appropriation would cover the expenses of RMI and other administrative costs.

Morgan reported that, at the end of the current fiscal year, when funds ran low, Holmes and Narver had curtailed operations at Enewetak and used a portion of the remaining funds to purchase food for the first quarter of the new fiscal year. As a result of the reduction in field operations, locally hired agricultural workers and sailors had been temporarily laid off. The Enewetak leaders expressed concern that the Wetak II was not sailing and that, even though the captain and engineer continued to receive their salaries, the Enewetakese crew was not being paid.

In order to develop a common policy regarding future administration of the Enewetak Food and Agricultural Support Program, a working group was formed with representatives of the three governments involved in the issue. The group consists of Morgan (US), Oliver (RMI), and Anderson (Enewetak). The principal task of the working group will be to develop recommendations to the U.S. Congress regarding the program for Fiscal Year 1989 and beyond. [The Enewetak Local Government Council subsequently passed a resolution to the effect that, in Fiscal Year 1989, the Council would assume responsibility for paying the local crew of the Wetak II, while Holmes and Narver would continue to administer the agricultural support program and the provision of supplemental foods, and, in Fiscal Year 1990, the Council would manage all aspects of the program previously administered by Holmes and Narver. Throughout the five-year period, RMI would handle administrative duties inherited from TTPI.]

Report prepared by Peter N. Oliver on October 1, 1987.