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Santa Fe Operations

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Colonel Vincent G. Huston, USAF
Acting Director of Military Application

SFO RESPONSIBILITY FOR DISPLACED NATIVES IN MARSHALL ISLANDS

SYMBOL: MAT:NDG

Reference is made to your memorandum of July 2, 1954, subject as above.

On June 21, at Mr. Reeves' request, the Division of Military Application furnished to Santa Fe Operations Office all documents in our possession covering responsibilities for the displaced inhabitants of Rongelap and Utirik. At no time has the Division of Military Application assigned to Santa Fe Operations Office any responsibility in this matter. Any responsibility for native resettlement that was assigned to Task Group 7.5 by General Clarkson, in his capacity as Commander, Joint Task Force SEVEN, has since that time been terminated. It is believed that the letter from Joint Task Force SEVEN dated July 6, 1954 will answer any doubts existing on this subject at your office. The above letter was coordinated with and concurred in by the Atomic Energy Commission prior to dispatch to your office.

In summary, the Division of Military Application and Santa Fe Operations Office have no responsibility in regard to the displaced Marshallese. Those responsibilities of the Atomic Energy Commission that remain, i.e., future medical care, will be executed by the Division of Biology and Medicine. When the final resettlement of the Rongelap natives takes place, the Atomic Energy Commission may be requested for building assistance by CINCPAC. However, if such a situation should arise, the problem will be considered on its own merits at that time.

Vincent G. Huston
Colonel, USAF
Acting Director of
Military Application

CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED
AUTHORITY: DOE-DFG
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