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MEMO ROUTE SLIP Form AEC-08 (Rev. May 14, 1947)		See me about this. Note and return.	For conc. [] For signat []	For action. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For information.
TO (Name and unit) Howard Brown B2M Room 1305, T-3 Bldg.	INITIALS DATE	REMARKS		
TO (Name and unit)	INITIALS DATE	REMARKS		
TO (Name and unit)	INITIALS DATE	REMARKS		
FROM (Name and unit) Lt. Col. Greenberg Test Branch, DMA Room 211	REMARKS Forwarded herewith for your information is a memorandum from Mr. Leehey, SFO to B/Gen. Fields, DMA dated October 27, 1954. Subject: Relocated Marshallese Natives.			
PHONE NO. 637	DATE 11-1-54			

USE OTHER SIDE FOR ADDITIONAL REMARKS

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING

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TO : Brig. Gen. K. E. Fields, Director, IMA
AEC, Washington, D. C.

October 27, 1954

FROM: Donald J. Leebey, Manager, Santa Fe Operations

SUBJ: RELOCATED MARSHALLESE NATIVES

SYMB: ENO:TAH-5664

Reference is made to memorandum from this office, subject: Proposed Facilities - Jaluit Atoll and Kili Island, symbol ENO:TAH-5642, dated October 21, 1954, by which plans and estimates of cost for assistance to displaced Bikini natives were forwarded to you.

Supplementing the above-mentioned memorandum, and as an item considered to be of considerable interest to the Commission, certain portions of a report by Mr. Ernest Wynkoop, AEC Resident Engineer, Pacific Proving Ground, are extracted below. Mr. Wynkoop's comments were written subsequent to his survey of the Jaluit-Kili-Majuro area and are quoted below for your information and consideration.

".... the writer is compelled to submit on behalf of AEC certain impressions received during this trip, which appear to have serious bearing on AEC interests, specifically in relocation of natives due to test operations and, generally, because of the condition that Pacific Proving Ground constitutes an area within the Trust Territories and certain operational matters and problems cannot be other than of mutual interest with HiComferPacIs.

"The several stage relocation movement of the Bikini people and the obviously unsatisfactory condition of life made possible to them to date seem adequately to justify the aggressive interests of both Trust Territory and AEC administrators. The presently proposed partial solution by development at Jabor and Kili Islands would obviously materially relieve the problem of making the natives more self-sufficient and more resigned to extended delay or no return to their original area of Bikini Atoll.

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"The rotation of approximately thirty people, or six families, from Kili to Jabor will make possible pursuits not possible at Kili alone. These will include some agricultural development, fishing, and handicraft, and at the same time, the excellent copra production of Kili Island may continue as a substantial support to these people. Warehousing of copra from Kili, at Jabor, for transshipment will obviate losses due to exposure and delays because of storms.

"Trust Territories are working out the acquisition of a 50-foot boat for shuttle service between Kili and Jabor. On a rotational basis, apparently all residents of Kili will have an opportunity to enjoy part-time living at a lagoon site similar to their original home at Bikini Atoll. Opportunities for education and agricultural development will be better at Jabor. The installation of radio communications capable of maintaining contact between Kili and Jabor, and between Jabor and Majuro, will do much to relieve insecurity, bring about emergency aid as needed, and to assist in logistical problems. In addition, the proposed Kili warehouse will serve a need in protection of the copra product between shipments to Jabor by the natives.

"It is realized that Government-controlled property in the Trust Territories is limited in such manner that not much better sites can be made available to solve this problem. The matter of land title is extremely involved. As this concept of responsibility of interest is accepted, and when this specific project for the Bikini people at Kili is approved, then some further consideration might be given to the situation of the Rongelap natives at Ejit.

"It is strictly the writer's opinion that this settlement at Ejit will not long satisfactorily solve the needs of this group and that some further, more lasting relocation should be considered. Basically, it would appear that return to Rongelap is as much in question today as was the Bikinians' return to Bikini at the end of Operation Crossroads. If an extending period of time similar to that of record relating to the Bikini people, in their move to Kwajalein and thence Kili, and then partly to Jabor under

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this recent concept, should prevail in respect to the Rongelap natives now at Ejit, it would result in such difficult administration and unhappiness.

"In light of the impact such implications might have in the public press, or even in official documents of the Trust Territories similar to the paper by Mr. Tobin, entitled "The Bikini People, Past and Present," it would appear most desirable at this time to take a second look at the Rongelap potential and possibly to consider some aggressive steps to solve this problem now, if extended delays are truly anticipated. It is obvious that so long as these people at Ejit expect to return to Rongelap, they will not undertake much in the way of becoming self-sufficient. They will continue to be wards of the Government, and paternalistic government will necessarily continue to an undesirable degree.

"It is recommended that AEC participation and scheduling of construction work be approved after concurrence of your offices, Trust Territories, and Department of Interior, along the lines of detailed preliminary plans and estimates which will be forwarded on completion. It is further recommended that high level consideration of AEC interest be explored insofar as the ultimate solution for the Rongelap group is concerned, giving due consideration to the time factor as well as other apparently delicate influences which are obvious."

With reference to Mr. Whykoop's comment in the last paragraph on Page 2 -- "Basically, it would appear that return to Rongelap is as much in question today...." -- this office does not consider that sufficient information as to the existing rad-safe situation is on hand to date to endorse such a comment. You will recall that the Rongelap natives are scheduled to return to Rongelap about May 1955. We are undertaking an additional rad-safe survey in the month of November in which the Eniwetok Marine Biology Laboratory will participate. A complete survey will be made of residual contamination of the islands, the plant foods, and the fish. The results of this survey will be forwarded to you for such action as may be considered appropriate at that time.

/s/

Donald J. Leebay
Manager