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# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. John C. Bugher, Director, FIM  
W. Mitchell, General Counsel



DATE: 400440

FROM : Colonel Jack L. Armstrong, USAF  
Assistant Director, Division of Military Application

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SUBJECT: ANSWERS TO STATE DEPARTMENT QUERIES RE TRUST TERRITORY

SYMBOL: NAT:NDG

Your attention is invited to the attached list of questions that has been submitted to the Atomic Energy Commission by the State Department. Answers have been requested so that the United States representative on the United Nations Trusteeship Council may have information upon which to base his position in forthcoming discussions concerning the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands which will come before the Council on June 2, 1954.

It is requested that answers be prepared by the division indicated on the enclosure and returned to this division no later than May 21, 1954 so that a complete reply may be compiled for forwarding to the State Department.

Any comment which you may wish to make on questions other than those indicated for your division will be considered by this division in preparing the final reply.

*Jack L. Armstrong*  
Jack L. Armstrong  
Colonel, USAF  
Assistant Director  
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Enclosure:  
List of Possible Questions

*Access # 326-78  
Box 3  
FILE = NAT:NDG-B*

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW	
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REVIEWER (ADD): NAME: <i>VSD</i>	
DATE: <i>4/4/94</i>	

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List of Possible Questions

Those questions marked by asterisks are wholly or partially answered by materials available in the files of the Department and in the statements made by Admiral Strauss and Ambassador Allison.

- DMA 1. Why were areas within the Trust Territory chosen for testing purposes? \*
- B&M 2. Does the Administering Authority feel satisfied that there will be no long-run effects on the inhabitants, either physical or psychological, from these enormously destructive devices?
- DMA 3. Movement of people \*
- DMA (a) Were any inhabited areas in the estimated danger zone? If so, what provision was made for the evacuation of the inhabitants? Will any such evacuation be temporary or permanent? In either case, what arrangements have been made for the welfare of the evacuees?
- DMA (b) Did the actual danger zone of any of the tests extend to any inhabited area not within the estimated danger area? If so, was it necessary to evacuate any of them, temporarily or permanently? What arrangements were made for the welfare of any such evacuees?
4. Damage \*
- DMA (a) How much land was destroyed?
- DMA B&M (b) How much land was in any way damaged? What was the extent and kind of damage?
- B&M (c) What was the extent of sea area, including lagoons and surrounding open sea, contaminated or otherwise affected? What were the effects? How lasting are they? Will any areas require decontamination? Is there any way of doing this?
- B&M (d) How many persons were injured? How many were indigenous inhabitants? What steps were taken to treat and otherwise assist them? What is their present condition?
5. Compensation
- OCC B&M DMA (a) Was the land area which was destroyed or rendered useless of any agricultural or economic value and, if so, does the Administering Authority plan to compensate the owners or users? \* How?

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- OGC  
DMA (b) If there was damage to any property outside the test area, are there any plans to compensate the owners or users? How?
- BAM  
OGC (c) To the extent that marine life (an important source of food) was contaminated, has any compensation or assistance to the inhabitants affected been undertaken or planned?
- OGC (d) Was any compensation made for injuries sustained by indigenous inhabitants?
- DMA 6. What kind of advance notification was given? Was it adequate to warn all shipping and aircraft which might enter the area?
- DMA 7. Is the Administering Authority contemplating further H-bomb experimentation in this area, and, if so, what steps are contemplated to provide adequate safeguards for inhabitants or other persons who might be affected by "fallout" radioactive material at an even greater distance than before?

It is possible that questions concerning the international obligations of the United States may also be asked. The Department of State is preparing answers to questions of this type, of which the following are examples.

- OGC 1. Is not the testing of such destructive devices incompatible with the obligations of the United States under the Trusteeship Agreement and the Charter?
- OGC 2. In view of the fact that the Administering Authority is not sovereign in the Trust Territory, by what legal right may the Administering Authority destroy portions of such territory?
- OGC  
DMA 3. Does the Administering Authority feel that it is justified in experimenting in the Trust Territory with weapons which it cannot control with any certainty?
- OGC  
DMA 4. What authority does the United States have for closing large areas of the ocean for these tests?
- OGC  
DMA  
BAM 5. Did any notification include the UN? Was any kind of UN approval deemed necessary, sought, or obtained? Presuming there is a right to close large danger areas of this kind, does this right include the right to contaminate international waters and marine life? •