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ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
Washington 25, D. C.

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April 17, 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR Mr. [illegible]

I was visited today by a delegation consisting of former Senator Thomas, James Davis from Interior Department and a Mr. Sody.

They told me of the plight of the natives who had formerly inhabited Bikini and who are now living on Kili. Since Kili is not a lagoon atoll (consequently, affords the natives no opportunity to fish) and since for at least four months of the year it is impossible to land any supplies by ship, they have been for these and other reasons quite unhappy. Russia is making [illegible] of our treatment of the natives of the trust islands.

I told the group that while the radioactive hazard was not great, we would have to secure information additional to that which was obtained in 1949 to be absolutely sure that the island is fit for habitation. I also told them Bikini might still play a part in our program. Davis asked if we could do two things: (1) have a recheck made of the radioactive hazards, and, if we got a report that the island was safe, (2) consider one of several other islands suitable for our purposes but not particularly attractive to a native population. They inquired whether we might be interested in the island of Marcus, for example.

I don't know what kind of a survey has been made by the test group at Los Alamos of the Pacific islands, but Mr. Thomas and Mr. Davis are quite happy to make a survey of all of the trust islands to find one that would fit our specifications. I would like to talk to you about this some time at your convenience.

/s/ Gordon Dean

Gordon Dean

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