

Marth 28

April 27, 1979
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

TELECOPY TO DOE - Telecopier No. 353-5140

1979 APR 27 8 42

Attention: Dr. Bruce Machholz, D.D.E., Washington, D. C. 4365

From: Distad Majuro Marshall Islands

To: Sec. State. Pass to DOTA DOI and OMSN.

Recent world wide media coverage of three mile islands nuclear accident and the subsequent concern of White House and Congress for health and safety of affected residents has once again focused attention of Marshallese victims of nuclear testing on current and potential medical and social problems which are directly attributable to American nuclear tests in the Marshalls. We have been asked to urge immediate consideration of the United States Government to release any and all information which may bear on the welfare of the people of the Marshalls affected by the tests. In addition to a full report on the recently conducted Northern Marshalls radiological survey, we wish to request that appropriate response be given to the following prior to the May Trusteeship Council meeting:

1. Why were the people of Likiep left out of radiological and medical surveys in spite of alarming increase in occurrence of thyroid illnesses and other cancer cases?
2. Exactly what was meant by referral of Dr. Coard's team to "naturally high incidence of goiter amongst descendants of early European settlers in the Northern Marshalls" in connection with potential Likiep victims?

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

3. April 15 article in Honolulu Star Bulletin and Advertiser by Bill Curry (Washington Post Service) alleges coverup of AEC studies on thyroid cancer and leukemia linkage to exposure. How were the Marshalls affected by such coverups and documents available for inspection by Marshallese counsel?

4. Will the United States object to third country observation of and participation in future medical examinations of affected Northern Marshalls residents and analysis of results and implications of Northern Marshall radiation survey?

5. Will the United States once and for all settle the continuing debates for Bikini as to its safety. Once it was declared safe, residents were moved back, only to be subsequently relocated due to high levels of radiation. Now reports indicate Eneu may be safe for habitation once again rekindling hope of repatriation within the exiled population. When will this end?

6. In view of new findings and renewed fears, should the entire Eneuatak situation be reviewed? Could we be unwittingly leading an unsuspecting community to nuclear doom?

Further, we would request that Secretary Schlesinger and the highest DOE official responsible for the nuclear activities of the United States in the Marshall Islands, including the clean-up, surveys, ongoing medical examinations, etc. be available for discussions with the Marshallese

delegation to New York during the week of May 13. Any other person from other departments who may be able to assist in understanding of these problems is also respectfully invited to participate in these talks.

We would appreciate your assistance in setting up this conference.

HIPSC Sends.