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ADMINISTRATION
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FM USERRA MW 2007B BAY ASST MGR FOR ENVIRONMENT & SAFETY LAS VEGAS NV
TO USERRA DE WALTER W W MEYEREN OREG WASHDC

AT

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SUBJECT: SURVEILLANCE OF ENHETAK PEOPLE.

OUR RECENT DELIBERATIONS CONCERNING THE BROOKHAVEN PRESENCE AT
BONETAS/UTERIK AND OUR FEBRUARY 4-6 DISCUSSIONS AT KWAJALEIN
LEAVE ME APPREHENSIVE ABOUT THE PROPOSED EXTENSION OF BROOKHAVEN
INTEREST TO ENCOMPASS ENHETAK ATOLL AND ITS PEOPLE. ALTHOUGH
I HAVE FOR SOME TIME BEEN GENERALLY AWARE OF A PLAN FOR RE-CASING
OF THE ENHETAK PEOPLE AT THE TIME OF AND SUBSEQUENT TO THEIR
RETURN, THE POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THAT ACTIVITY HAVE ONLY
RECENTLY COME INTO FOCUS.

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THE PEOPLE OF ENHETAK HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR
EARLY RETURN TO LIARTAN ISLAND WILL EXPOSE THEM TO NO RADIOLOGICAL
HAZARD TO THEIR HEALTH. THEY HAVE AGREED TO OBSERVE ALL REQUIRED
RESTRICTIONS ON VISITS ELSEWHERE AT ENHETAK UNTIL THE RADIOLOGICAL
CLEARUP (OR TIME) PERMITS THOSE RESTRICTIONS TO BE LIFTED. ANY

*2/25 Called Bond and Ray
Suggested they advise Knudsen to postpone
visit.*

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SUGGESTIONS THAT THEY REQUIRE MEDICAL SURVEILLANCE UPON AND AFTER THEIR RESETTLEMENT MUST LEAD TO UNEASINESS ABOUT THE VALIDITY OF OUR ASSURANCES. AT EIKINI WE HAVE TRIED TO MAKE AND EXPLAIN THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS (LOOKING FOR THE EFFECTS OF RADIATION) AND BIO-ASSAY; ONE OF MANY TECHNIQUES OF ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEILLANCE. THIS DISTINCTION HAS PROVEN TO BE TOO SOPHISTICATED FOR COMPREHENSION BY MOST OF THE PEOPLE WE DEAL WITH IN THE MARSHALLS, (AS WELL AS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR). THE UNHAPPY FACT IS THAT WHEN THE BROOKHAVEN TEAM EXAMINES PEOPLE IN THE MARSHALLS THIS IS TAKEN AS EVIDENCE THAT WE EXPECT RADIATION-INDUCED ILLNESS, OR AT LEAST THAT WE ARE NOT SURE.

I DO NOT ARGUE THAT WE SHOULD NOT DO BIO-ASSAYS OF AT LEAST A SAMPLE OF THE RETURNING EIKINI PEOPLE, BUT I THINK WE HAVE A BETTER CHANCE OF AVOIDING MISUNDERSTANDING AND CONCERN IF WE DO THIS WITH OTHER THAN BROOKHAVEN AND OTHER THAN MEDICAL PERSONNEL. WE SHOULD ALSO INITIATE IT WITH A CAREFULLY PREPARED AND PRESENTED EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM. AT EIKINI WE HAVE BETTER RESOURCES TO CONDUCT SUCH A PROGRAM THAN AT ANY OF THE OTHER ATOLLS. THE PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT OUR LABORATORY AND ABOUT THE FACT ON ENEBRI; THEY HAVE SEEN A FILM IN MARSHALLESE DEPICTING THE ENVIRONMENTAL COURSE OF THEIR ATOLL. THE

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MAN WHO WILL BE THEIR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY (DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR'S REPRESENTATIVE) IS A HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER WHO PARTICIPATED IN OUR TEACHERS WORKSHOP AT ENHETAK LAST SUMMER. AND WE EXPECT TO HAVE A CONTINUOUS PRESENCE AT ENHETAK FOR AT LEAST THE NEXT THREE YEARS. ONE FINAL POINT, WE HAVE HAD AMERICANS LIVING AND WORKING AT ENHETAK CONTINUOUSLY SINCE THE TEST DAYS - INDIVIDUALS FOR AS LONG AS 15-16 YEARS. YET WE HAVE NOT HAD A BIOASSAY PROGRAM. SOON AFTER THE FIRST CONTINGENT OF ENHETAK PEOPLE-RETURNS, THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT WILL DEPLOY HUNDREDS (PERHAPS 300) TROOPS TO ENHETAK. IT IS NOT YET CLEAR WHAT SORT OF BIO-ASSAY PROGRAM FOR THE TROOPS IS CONTEMPLATED, BUT IF IT APPEARS THAT OUR "STUDIES" ARE CONFINED TO MARSHALLESE PEOPLE, THE "SHINBA BIC" ACCUSATION WILL INEVITABLY REAPPEAR.

I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT ANYONE FEELS THAT THERE IS ANY URGENCY ABOUT STARTING A BIOASSAY PROGRAM IMMEDIATELY UPON THE PEOPLE'S ARRIVAL. HOWEVER, BROOKHAVEN CURRENTLY PLANS TO INCLUDE ENHETAK IN THE FORTHCOMING MARCH SURVEY. I RECOMMEND THAT THAT NOT OCCUR. I FURTHER RECOMMEND THAT WHATEVER BIOASSAY PROGRAM IS AUTHORIZED BE DEVELOPED IN COORDINATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE. SHOULD IT BE DETERMINED THAT DDA WILL CONDUCT ITS OWN BIOASSAY PROGRAM, CONSIDERATION SHOULD

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BE GIVEN TO ASSIGNING THAT TASK TO THE LAWRENCE LIVERMORE LABORATORY,
WHICH IS ALREADY CONDUCTING A VARIETY OF ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEILLANCE
PROGRAMS AT SANDWELL, THE AHT&C, ET

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10/12/00

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