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UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20545

MAY 26 1970

Honorable Edward E. Johnston
High Commissioner of the Trust
Territory of the Pacific Islands
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Dear Mr. Johnston:

As you may know, the 1970 survey of Bikini Atoll will take place during the approximate period May 28 to June 14. The Atomic Energy Commission sincerely appreciates the assistance of you and your staff in the arrangements for this survey. When the analyses are completed, we will provide you with all significant results. This will probably require several months.

During my recent visit to Saipan we discussed the development of a discussion paper which could be uniformly used in responding to questions concerning the radioactivity levels at Bikini. A copy of such a paper is enclosed, "Radiation Safety Considerations at Bikini Atoll". This paper will be provided to the members of the survey team and Drs. Tobin and Nakanishi as a basis for dealing with the Bikinians and others concerning the radiological situation.

In addition, members of the Trust Territory staff inquired about the radiological status of the Prinz Eugen, apparently on the understanding that the Navy was prepared to release the ship to the Trust Territory. We discussed this matter informally with the Navy and were advised that there is no record of proceedings intended to transfer the ship to the Department of the Interior. If the Trust Territory desires to salvage the vessel, a request to this effect should be directed to Chief of Naval Operations, Attention: OP-90. If requested the AEC is prepared to assist in a determination of the radiological condition of the ship. For your information, participants in the tests have expressed the opinion that the Prinz Eugen was not contaminated to the extent to preclude salvage on this basis.

REPOSITORY DOE/PASO
COLLECTION DOE/NV
BOX No. 1227, "ERDA #2"
BIKINI SURVEY
FOLDER Jan Thru Dec / 1970

Honorable Edward E. Johnston

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During our meeting you mentioned the testimony on Bikini Atoll problems during the 1971 Interior appropriations hearings before the House Committee on Appropriations and suggested that we may wish to brief Mrs. Julia Hansen or her staff on the radiological situation at Bikini. We have now obtained a print of the hearing record and note several statements which should be clarified. We plan to contact Mrs. Hansen's office and offer our services for this purpose. I will advise you of the outcome of any such discussions.

Please advise me if additional information on these matters is desired. We will be pleased to assist in any manner.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
MARTIN B. BILES

Martin B. Biles, Director
Division of Operational Safety

Enclosure:

Discussion Paper - "Radiation Safety
Considerations at Bikini Atoll"

cc: Mrs. E. P. Farrington
Department of Interior

bcc: E. B. Giller, AGMMA
R. E. Miller, Manager, NV
W. A. Bonnet, NV

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MAY 26 1970
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DIVISION OF OPERATIONAL SAFETY