

DRAFT - 6/17/96

30 DAY JOINT ACTION PLAN AND TIME TABLES  
FOR REACHING THE DEFINED OBJECTIVES OF THE RMI-U.S. JOINT  
COMMUNIQUE SIGNED ON MAY 15, 1996.

On June 7, 1996, a meeting was convened at the RMI Embassy in Washington, D.C. to draft a joint plan of action and time tables for achieving the objectives espoused in the May 15, 1996 joint communiqué. This meeting occurred within the 30 days required by the joint communiqué. The representatives at the meeting included Holly Barker and Matthew Sanders (a summer intern) from the RMI Embassy, Tom Bell and Neil Barss from the Department of Energy (DOE), and Nancy Fanning and Joe McDermott from the Department of Interior (DOI).

While the RMI Government, DOE and DOI have all pledged to work together to ensure that the DOE medical missions meet everyone's best interest, it is agreed that the medical mission scheduled for Fall 1996 will not be delayed. While every attempt will be made to address the concerns of the Marshallese patients expressed at the annual RMI-DOE meeting held in Honolulu on May 14-15, 1996, the two governments agree to work towards the long-term improvement of the missions. Some of the immediate concerns of the patients include waiting under tent covers for appointments with doctors, inadequate per diem rates, and long waits. Other Marshallese indicated that they do not feel welcome by some personnel on Kwajalein.

The possibility of using Majuro, rather than Kwajalein, for future medical missions was discussed. This idea needs to be discussed with the RMI Ministries of Foreign Affairs, and Health and Environment, as well as the 177 Health Care Program. It is believed that many benefits could evolve from the partnering of DOE, 177 HCP, and the RMI national health care program.

It was also agreed that DOE will determine whether or not a boat presently located in Pohnpei and controlled by Pacific Missionary Airlines could be used to provide some vessel based support in the Spring 1997 medical mission. The use of such a boat will, of course, be dependent on cost impacts and identified needs/benefits of such an option.

As a result of the Honolulu meeting, the RMI Government believes DOE is trying to use its annual funding as appropriately as possible. Nonetheless, the RMI does want to be involved in bilateral discussions about the prioritization of budget items. Indications were made at the Honolulu meeting that funds could perhaps be shifted from the environmental and logistics portion of the budget in order to supplement the medical program.

The medical program is the priority of the RMI. Until the RMI Government and the recipient communities agree to the shifts in program funding, however, no substantial reallocations should take place.

There are eight issues in the Joint Communiqué which the Embassy meeting was charged with addressing. A list of the participants who should be involved in the discussion/resolution of the issues was drawn-up, as well as a time table. Minister Muller, for budgetary reasons and to ensure participation of the local atoll leaders, requested that the meetings be convened in Majuro whenever possible. With this in mind, the majority of the meetings are tentatively scheduled to coincide with the Fall medical mission which begins in September.

At the June 7th Embassy meeting, a list of proposed participants and a time table for each of the eight working groups was jointly established. The RMI Embassy in Washington, D.C. and DOE will continue to work together to finalize plans for the meetings.

#### **WORKING GROUPS TO BE FORMED TO ADDRESS THE EIGHT ISSUES LISTED IN THE JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ:**

##### **Working Group #1 - land-based/sea-based medical care delivery**

**BACKGROUND:** The purpose of this working group will be to determine what the most cost effective and best mode of health care delivery is for the populations participating in the DOE medical missions.

**PARTICIPANTS:** Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Health and Environment, Banny deBrum, Rongelap and Utirik community leaders, Tom Bell, Jean Howard, Bill Jackson, Joe McDermott, Jack Jorban, Russell Edwards, Claudia Baquet

**PROPOSED DATE** September 16-20, Majuro.  
**AND LOCATION:**

##### **Working Group #2 - independent review of the medical program**

**BACKGROUND:** Although there is no funding presently available to fund an independent review, the RMI Government requests that a working group convene in order to clarify the reasons why an independent review is necessary, and the type of information the RMI would like an independent group to analyze. This review was recommended by the White House Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments and is endorsed by the Department of Interior.

PARTICIPANTS: Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Health and Environment, 4 atoll representatives, Banny deBrum, Bill Graham, Jack Jorban, Tom Bell, Neil Barss, Jean Howard, Joe McDermott, Claudia Baquet

PROPOSED DATE  
AND LOCATION: September 16-20, Majuro

**Working Group #3 - working collaboratively with the RMI and affected communities to enhance decision-making and program direction**

BACKGROUND: Both the RMI Government and DOE want to improve the communication with the communities in order to ensure that communities are consulted and involved in any decision-making regarding the programs they participate in.

PARTICIPANTS: Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Health and Environment, Banny deBrum, 4 atoll Senators, Mayors, and Councils, Jack Jorban, Tom Bell, Jean Howard, Bill Jackson, Joe McDermott, Claudia Baquet

PROPOSED DATE  
AND LOCATION: September 16-20, Majuro.

**Working Group #4 - reexamination of the terms "exposed" and "unexposed"**

BACKGROUND: Historically, Marshallese citizens have been placed in categories of either "exposed" or "unexposed." These definitions are misleading, and have a direct impact on the type and extent of health care available to individuals. These delineations are based on atoll of residence rather than the health or ill-health of a person. The purpose of this working group will be to examine the traditional definitions of "exposed" and "unexposed," and to discuss the accuracy of these terms in a modern context.

PARTICIPANTS: Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Health and Environment, Tony deBrum, Banny deBrum, 4 atoll representatives, Bill Graham, Ed Radford, Jack Jorban, Greg Beattie, Holly Barker, John Milne, Marty Blume, Jean Howard, Ed Kaplan, Paul Seligman, Tom Bell, Neil Barss,

Nancy Fanning, Joe McDermott, Claudia Baquet, staffers  
from Capitol Hill

**PROPOSED DATE**

**AND LOCATION:** (date to be determined), RMI Embassy, Washington, D.C.

**Working Group #5 - integration and improved coordination of medical records, referrals, and statistics of the DOE program, the RMI 177 HCP, and the RMI public health program**

**BACKGROUND:** Coordinated records, referrals and statistics will allow the DOE, 177 HCP, and the RMI national government provide the best possible care to patients, and provide a better understanding of the extent of illness in the population. The working group will explore ways to better coordinate information presently kept by each of the three health care providers.

**PARTICIPANTS:** Russell Edwards, Donald Capelle, Jack Jorban, Greg Beattie, Bill Graham, records keepers from the RMI hospital, 177, and DOE, Jean Howard, Capelli deBrum, Bill Jackson, Claudia Baquet

**PROPOSED DATE** (en route to the Washington, D.C. meetings), at the EH  
**AND LOCATION:** Office in Honolulu, Hickham AFB

**Working Group #6 - document and records retrieval and availability to the RMI**

**BACKGROUND:** As result of the DOE "openness initiative," and requests by the RMI Government, thousands of documents have been recently made available to the RMI. Additionally, there are hundreds of cubic feet of documents in various U.S. archives which need to be reviewed in order to identify, declassify when necessary, and made available to the RMI. The working group will meet on a regular basis in Washington, D.C. to establish priorities and to locate the resources necessary to make documents available.

**PARTICIPANTS:** Tom Bell, Neil Barss, Colonel Claude Bailey, Holly Barker, atoll lawyers, Lance Laack, CIC

**PROPOSED TIME** beginning on July 9, 1996 at the RMI Embassy in

AND LOCATION: Washington, D.C. with monthly meetings to continue as necessary

**Working Group #7 - environmental and resettlement efforts; and**

BACKGROUND: Although a working group will be convened to deal specifically with environmental and resettlement efforts, it was felt that the Runit Dome issue might be more appropriate for a JCM meeting which the Department of Defense and RMI convene on a regular basis. The working group, however, will discuss environmental restoration and monitoring issues associated with resettlement.

PARTICIPANTS: Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Health and Environment, Jorelik Tibon, Banny deBrum, 4 atoll representatives, Bill Robison, Ed Kaplan, Tom Bell, Bill Jackson, Joe McDermott, Bill Graham

PROPOSED DATE

AND LOCATION: September 16-20, Majuro

**Working Group #8 - scope of eligibility for the DOE medical program**

BACKGROUND: Presently, Congress has directed DOE to treat only radiogenic illnesses in the "exposed" population. There is a discrepancy between the illnesses which the U.S. Government and the RMI Government consider radiogenic. Whether or not an illness is labeled as radiogenic or non-radiogenic determines the type and quality of health care available to a patient. The working group will discuss these discrepancies and the consequences for Marshallese patients.

PARTICIPANTS: Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Health and Environment, Tony deBrum, Banny deBrum, Holly Barker, Jack Jorban, Greg Beattie, Bill Graham, Ed Radford, Straub Clinic representative, Marty Blume, Jean Howard, Claudia Baquet, Paul Seligman, Tom Bell, Neil Barss, Nancy Fanning, Joe McDermott, staffers from Capitol Hill

PROPOSED DATE

AND LOCATION: (date to be determined), RMI Embassy, Washington, D.C.

The list of participants identifies the major stakeholders in the issues which need to be resolved. The list is not meant to be exclusionary, and can be modified, as necessary.

Upon completion of each working group's tasks, a report will be co-authored and agreed upon by the RMI and the U.S. Governments.

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Phillip Muller  
RMI Government

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Paul Seligman  
Department of Energy

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Nancy Fanning  
Department of Interior