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VIA HAND DELIVERY

October 5, 1998

R. Thomas Bell, III
U.S. Department of Energy
Office of International Health Programs
19901 Germantown Road
Germantown, MD 20874-1290

Re: Document Retrieval And Declassification

Dear Tom:

I am writing on behalf of the people of Bikini and the RMI Government to provide the Department of Energy with a priority list of documents for retrieval and declassification.

As you recall from our last document subcommittee meeting on March 19 at the RMI embassy, Roger Anders of DOE's History Division reported that DOE has completed research in 26 of 81 records collections that are likely to contain pertinent documents relating to the U.S. nuclear testing program in the Marshall Islands. At that time, Roger also created a separate list of unclassified records collections, currently available to the public, which may also contain pertinent documents.

At the meeting, Roger provided a five-page list of collections and their status as of Spring 1998, and he invited RMI representatives to provide a list of priorities for future retrieval and declassification.

The following is a list of RMI's prioritized document requests, listed in order of priority (and referenced to the five-page list handed out at the March 19 meeting):

(1) Original transcripts of AEC meetings 1954 - 1957 (page 1, item 9): At the March meeting Roger said these transcripts were being declassified and that the

Marshall Islands information has been culled out. Have these been produced to DOE/CIC? If not, their production is the top priority.

(2) Completion reports (page 4, item 3).

(3) AEC documents at NARA - Atlanta (page 4, item 1): These documents, covering the period 1942 - 1955, contain the MED (Manhattan Engineer) central files as well as Oak Ridge research material. Roger indicated at the March meeting that this material was unclassified, but it was not clear whether his office had culled out the material related to the Marshall Islands. Please advise.

(4) Los Alamos National Laboratory (page 4, item 2): This material, which contains records from Project Y, J Division central files and Director's Office, were in the process of being declassified and sent to CIC.

(5) Lewis Strauss Collection (page 2, item 7).

(6) Lewis Strauss working files (Collection 1103) (page 2, item 8): My notes from the March meeting indicate that this contains mostly notations from Strauss' appointment calendar and telephone logs, but Roger thought there may be other pertinent information as well.

(7) Gordon Dunning files (Collection 1339) (page 3, item 13): At the time of the March meeting, Roger was not sure whether these documents had made their way into the DOE/CIC records. Please advise.

(8) Conrad - Ogle materials (Collection 1387) (page 3, item 17).

(9) AEC Secretariat 1958 - 1966 (Collection 20) (page 3, item 3): My notes indicate that this material has now been declassified, but it is not clear whether it has been processed into a public outlet.

(10) JCAE (Joint Committee on Atomic Energy) hearings (Collection 1172) (page 3, item 12).

RMI officials and I look forward to working with you and your colleagues on making these documents available as soon as possible. The Openness Initiative, started by Secretary O'Leary, remains of critical importance to the RMI Government and researchers seeking to learn more about the U.S. nuclear testing program in the Marshall

Islands. We appreciate your ongoing efforts to provide critical manpower and assistance in this area, and we are hopeful that the Department of Defense will respond to Congressional directives to provide similar assistance.

Sincerely,

Jonathan M. Weisgall

JMW:jj

cc: Kili/Bikini/Ejit Local Government Council
Chairman Oscar deBrum, Nuclear Claims Tribunal
Ambassador Banny de Brum
John Masek, Esq.
Davor Pevec, Esq.
Howard Hills, Esq.
Ms. Esther Kia'aina, Office of Senator Akaka

APPROVED:

The Hon. Phillip Muller, Minister of Foreign Affairs