



REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
P.O. BOX 1349
MAJURO, MARSHALL ISLANDS 96960

June 2, 2003

The Honorable Steven V. Cary
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health Studies
U.S. Department of Energy
19901 Germantown Road
Germantown, MD 20874-1290

Dear Mr. Cary:

I am writing to you to inform you that I will not attend this year's annual meeting between the DOE and the RMI. Ms. Kristina Stege from the RMI's Embassy in Washington, D.C. will represent the RMI Government at the meeting and will be supported, of course, by the Senators, Mayors and leaders from the 4 atolls.

I want to be honest with you about the reason I have decided not to attend this year's meeting. When I sat down to review the agenda for this year's meeting, I realized that from the RMI perspective every single one of the issues of greatest concern from last year's agenda, and from previous years remain on the agenda. Issues such as the Runit Dome, while not only a DOE issue, have been on the agenda every year for more than a decade. Three ministers of foreign affairs, including myself, have been unable to make an ounce of progress on these issues.

I am concerned about our inability to make progress on issues of such paramount importance to the RMI. Our radiological problems continue to cause extreme hardships for people and communities, yet the U.S. Government seems uninterested in helping us address the problems and injuries it has caused in a serious manner. I am frustrated and concerned about how U.S. inaction on radiological issues impacts our bilateral relationship.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gerald M. Zackios', written over a circular stamp or seal.

Gerald M. Zackios
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Cc : The Honorable Michael J. Senko, U.S. Ambassador to the RMI
Mr. David Cohen, Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior
Ms. Esther Kia'Aina, Staff Director for Congressman Mike Case
Mr. Jim Bierne, Senate Resources Committee
Mr. Allen P. Stayman, Senate Resources Committee
Ms. Noelani Kalipi, Office of Senator Daniel Akaka