

JOINT COMMUNIQUE

The Governments of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) and the United States (US) met in Honolulu, Hawaii on May 14-15, 1996 for the annual RMI-US Department of Energy (DOE) meeting to discuss the status of two U.S. DOE programs, the medical monitoring and care program and the environmental monitoring program, which the U.S. Congress mandates as a result of the U.S. Nuclear Weapons Testing Program.

The United States was represented in the meetings by Dr. P. Seligman, Ambassador J. Plaisted, Ms. N. Fanning. The Republic of the Marshall Islands was represented at the meeting by Minister P. Muller, Ambassador B. De Brum.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the head of each delegation expressed pleasure with the effective and open consultative approach and progress achieved at the annual meeting, and pledged to continue to work closely in the spirit of friendship and mutual cooperation.

Based on the deliberations of the meeting, both heads of delegation agree to:

- o consider together proposals to reallocate funds within the existing DOE Marshall Islands medical and environmental programs budget consistent with priorities and needs identified by the RMI;
- o identify and pursue means of supplementing and strengthening the current program through the participation of separately funded organizations, such as the U.S. Public Health Service, universities, foundations, and grant programs;
- o entertain a proposal from RMI identifying program needs which the current DOE budget is insufficient to support;
- o cooperate with the RMI in its efforts to inform the U.S. Congress regarding the availability of funding to meet U.S. obligations and commitments arising from the U.S. Nuclear Weapons Testing Program;
- o address, recommend, and seek to resolve issues identified by the interested parties, including:
 1. land-based/sea-based medical care delivery;
 2. independent review of the medical program;
 3. to work collaboratively with the RMI and affected communities to enhance decision making and program direction;
 4. reexamination of the terms "exposed" and "unexposed;"

5. integration and improved coordination of medical records, referrals, and statistics of the DOE program, the RMI 177 Health Care Program, and the RMI public health program;
6. document and records retrieval and availability to the RMI;
7. environmental and resettlement efforts; and
8. scope of and eligibility for the DOE medical program.

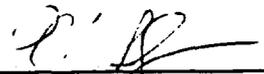
In light of the urgency of the situation created by the upcoming Fall 1996 medical care mission, the heads of the U.S. and RMI delegations have reached the following understanding with regard to item 1. above: Due to the consequences of the conversion to a land-based medical program, it is agreed that current arrangements for land-based services do not represent an irrevocable U.S. government policy regarding medical care program delivery. Rather, the DOE will determine the permanent long-term structure for delivering health program services to the affected communities based on the decision making process which includes participation by the RMI. In addition, DOE will take short-term measures, as may be agreed, to correct identified problems in connection with the recent introduction of the current land-based medical program. Recognizing the unique needs and priorities of the affected communities, the active participation of the affected communities with the RMI is necessary in determining what short and long-term measures shall be taken in connection with future missions.

With the exception of the land-based medical program which must be resolved prior to July 1, 1996, the heads of delegation agree that a meeting will be convened in Washington, D.C. within thirty days to establish a time table for achieving the defined objectives of the communique.

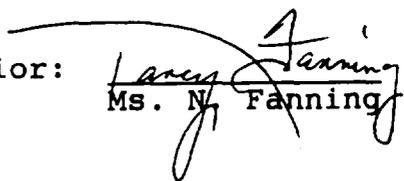
For the Republic of the Marshall Islands:


 Minister P. Muller

For the United States Department of Energy:


 Dr. P. Seligman

For the United States Department of Interior:


 Ms. N. Fanning

Signed May 15, 1996.