

**EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS**

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September 3, 1997

The Honorable Federico Peña
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
Forrestal Building
1000 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Peña:

It has recently come to my attention that the Department of Energy is considering eliminating the position of Science Adviser/Marshall Islands Program from its Germantown facility. I am writing to express the concern of the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands that these changes will adversely affect the ongoing document declassification process, and ultimately the bilateral relationship between our two countries.

As you know, in 1994 the Honorable Hazel O'Leary launched the Department of Energy's "Openness Initiative." The initiative was designed to make public the Department's information on human experimentation, including materials relating to the Marshall Islands.

To date, there has been a great deal of progress in obtaining previously-classified materials concerning the U.S. Nuclear Weapons Testing Program in the Marshall Islands. This has been due in no small part by the efforts and expertise of the current Science Adviser/Marshall Islands Program, Mr. Neil Barss.

For several years we have worked with Mr. Barss on the release of information. During this time he has consistently demonstrated an unparalleled level of knowledge of, and commitment to, the information release and dissemination process concerning the Marshall Islands. We have nothing but the highest praise for his dedication, professionalism and understanding. In all respects, he has proven to be a credit both to the Department and the U.S. Government. To lose someone of his caliber at this stage of the process will no doubt result in a serious setback to the work we

have collectively accomplished to date and erode the growing atmosphere of trust our governments have been developing to discuss and confront the consequences of the U.S. Nuclear Weapons Testing Program.

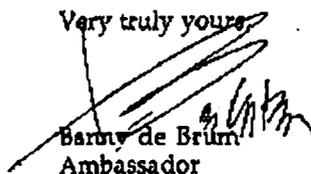
From its inception, all parties involved with the Marshall Islands component of the "Openness Initiative" acknowledged that this would be a long-term process. While great strides have been made in providing documents to the Marshall Islands Government, much work remains to be done. I am therefore deeply concerned that the DOE is currently considering eliminating the position of Science Adviser/Marshall Islands Program.

For decades, the RMI Government has requested the information that is now forthcoming. As a result of these disclosures our bilateral relationship has been strengthened. I understand and can appreciate fully the budgetary constraints faced by the DOE. However, I feel it necessary to express my deep concern over this proposed change and my concern about the adverse implications this change will have on our bilateral relationship.

The U.S. Government has committed itself to the sharing of information with the RMI Government. I sincerely hope this work can continue.

I thank you for your consideration of this matter, and I remain,

Very truly yours,



Barney de Brum
Ambassador

cc/ The Honorable Madeline Albright, Secretary of State
The Honorable Don Young, Chairman, House Committee on Resources
The Honorable Benjamin Gilman, Chairman, House Committee on International Relations
The Honorable Frank Murkowski, Chairman, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
The Honorable George Miller, Ranking Democrat, House Committee on Resources
The Honorable Daniel Akaka, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
The Honorable Eni Faleomavaega, House Committee on International Relations
The Honorable Robert Underwood, House Committee on International Relations

Subject: Expresses Concern that DOE is Considering Eliminating the Position of Science Adviser/Marshall Islands Program (DMR-97-03-0547)

Addressee: The Secretary

From: Ambassador Banny de Brum, Embassy of RMI

Control No. EH-6-97-: 156

ES No.: ES97-012666

Received: 09/12/97

Priority: 1

Office Assigned: EH-63

Due Date: 09/15/97

Division Assigned:

File#:

Staff Assigned: Tom Ball

Date: 9/15/97

Completed:

Comments: Prepare response for signature of the Secretary. NOTE: Please let Susan Whitmore know as soon as possible who is assigned action. Shirley in DMR is going to call ES to try to get an extension on the due date.

Continuation:

(Tom)



ESS/HR Correspondence Action Tracking System
ACTION TICKET
DMR Staff, DMR, EH-6, Susan Whitmore

Action Information

ES Number: 970012666
 Action Office: EH-6
 Action Title: Prepare Response [Letter To Secretary From Banny Debrum -- Priority: Normal]
 Other ID: Lizzie970547

Due Date: 09/15/97 Revised Due Date:
 Date Completed: Date Assigned:

Description: Incoming Correspondence Subject: Expresses concern that DOE ID considering elimination the position of Science Adviser/Marshall Islands Program

Incoming Images/
 Attachments: 
 970547.tif

Incoming Correspondence Information

Addressed To: Secretary
 CC'ed To:
 From: Banny Debrum
 Document Subject: Expresses concern that DOE ID considering elimination the position of Science Adviser/Marshall Islands Program

To Be Signed By:	Secretary	Concurrence Required:	EH-6, Brush
Document Type:	Letter	Classification:	Public Mail
Priority:	Normal	Priority Reason:	
Action Type:	Prepare Response	Received Date:	09/15/97
Document Date:	09/13/97		

Current Activity

Status: Initial Assignment
 Action From: DMR_Staff, DMR
 Action Lead: Susan Whitmore, EH-6
 Other Participants: Sue Anderson
 Comments/Update: Action assigned to EH-63 on 9/12 (srw)
 Attached Files/Documents:

History

History:

ORIGINAL TICKET CREATED BY: Jackie Morton ON 09/11/97 04:11 PM
ACTION FROM: DMR
RESPONSIBLE: Susan Whitmore, EH-6
ORIGINAL DUE DATE: 09/15/97
STATUS: Initial Assignment
COMMENTS: FWD to EH-6 to coordinate for response
OTHER NOTIFICATION:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

CI

ESSENTIAL/CRITICAL
ES NUMBER: ES97-012666
EXTERNAL

DATE OF DOC: 09/03/97 REC'D: 09/09/97 CONTROLLED: 09/10/97 DUE: 09/17/97

FROM: DEBRUM, BANNY DC O NOTES AREA:
AMBASSADOR
EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF
THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

SUBJECT: EXPRESSES CONCERN THAT DOE IS
SUMMARY: CONSIDERING ELIMINATING THE
POSITION OF SCIENCE ADVISER/
MARSHALL ISLANDS PROGRAM

SOURCE: PUBLIC MAIL

DOCUMENT TYPE: LETTER

ADDRESSED TO: SECRETARY
FOR SIGNATURE OF: SECRETARY

ACTION TO: ENVIRONMENT, SAFETY AND HEALTH
ACTION TYPE: Prepare final reply
ACTION OFFICER:

CONCURRENCE COPIES TO:
INFORMATION COPIES TO: OS/MONTOYA HR ESI TEAM

CONCURRENCES COMPLETED:

REMARKS: FINAL RESPONSE OR INTERIM ACKNOWLEDGEMENT MUST REACH
THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT BY THE DUE DATE.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT CONTACT: G Holloway

----- EXEC SEC INTERNAL USE -----

SUBJECT CROSS REF:
RELATED CODE/NUMBER:
ACCRTS NUMBER:

SPECIAL INT. CODE:
SPECIAL INT. DATE:

FILE CODE: PMDEBRUM-BS97012666

COMPLETION DATE:

INFORMATION GENERATED ON 09/10/97 AT 11:09