Received by hand delivery 11/21/96 pm

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
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Majuro, Marshall Islands 96960

October 31, 1996

H.E. Joan M. Plaisted
United States Ambassador
Majuro, Marshall Islands

Dear Ambassador Plaisted

I am writing to request your assistance regarding information and documents concerning the United States Nuclear Testing Program in the Marshall Islands that are of great importance to the government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Marshall Islands Nuclear Claims Tribunal in carrying out its responsibilities under the terms of the Section 177 Agreement.

A few years ago our government submitted a request to the government of the Untied States for documents concerning the US government's activities while carrying out the nuclear testing program. While we appreciate the large amount of documents provided to date, there are still others that we consider essential but do not have. Among the documents requested were the following:

> Information on all islands used at any time during the testing program in the Marshall Islands as monitoring stations, including how much land on each island was used for such stations and for support of monitoring personnel, for what periods of time, and to what extent trees or vegetation were removed from the land used for these stations.

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Information relating to fallout and other radiation exposure measured at monitoring stations within the Marshall Islands during the testing program.

Information of any and all radioactivity monitoring in any atoll or ocean ecosystem, and/or food chain within the Marshall Islands, including the dates of such monitoring, the fallout and exposure date measured, and the names of transportation for monitoring personnel (such as the names of the vessels that carried them to and from the monitoring sites).

While we had been hopeful that the Nationwide Radiological Survey would have provided that information with an analysis, such was not the case. The Nationwide Radiological Survey only dealt with present day residual radiation levels throughout the country, and did not deal with the levels of fallout that occurred during the testing period itself on a nationwide basis. Presumably, the reason for this was that the information had not been made available.

Presently, we do not know if this information is forthcoming as part of the US Department Energy's declassification program, or whether it remains classified with the Department of Energy or another agency of the US government.

Last week I spoke with Nuclear Claims Tribunal Chairman, Oscar De Brum, who informed me that during a recent conversation you had offered

your assistance in obtaining this information. Accordingly, I would request that the information listed above be made available to the government and the Nuclear Claims Tribunal as soon as is reasonably possible. Your assistance and support in this endeavor is most appreciated.

Sincerely yours

Phillip Muller
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Copy to:
Office of the President
Nuclear Claims Tribunal