

Displaced Natives Of Bikini Suffer On New Island

U.S. MARSHALL ISLANDS (AP)—This has been called the island of hunger people.

The inhabitants are Bikinians—100 Marshallese whose home atoll of Bikini was taken over eight years ago for testing of atomic weapons.

"When big waves come in we say Kili just like valaboo," their leader said. "We say it is a jail and hunger place."

Ever since they left home, the leader said, his people have seen "promises vanish."

Jiboj, No. 2 man in the village, observed.

"Our clothes are falling off and we are hungry. We look up to you [the United States] to do something."

The first project to assist these people to adjust themselves was started only this year. An agricultural project budgeted at \$2,800, it is designed to give the Bikinians crops of taro, an edible root. It will be at least a year before the project starts producing food.

Using hand knives and three axes, the Marshallese have cleared nine acres of dense tropical jungle as a start. Kili is a flat oval island of about 120 acres, lushly overgrown.

These people's old home, Bikini, is about 10 times as big—an atoll of 36 islands surrounding a lagoon abounding in fish. Fishing was the primary occupation there. On Kili there is no fishing seven months out of the year when high surf makes it almost impossible to land on the island.

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