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## MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Subj: USS RENSHAW (DDE-499) Visit to the Atoll of LIKIEP 5-6 March 1954

Ref: (a) Phonecon from Gordon Facer, DOE, on 22 May 79, regarding the New Marshallese Government's request for information about a Navy ship reported to have been at the Atoll of LIKIEP in early March 1954

(1) Deck Log entries 5-6 March 1954 for the USS RENSHAW Encl: (DDE-499)

- (2) Document concerning Long Term Activity Estimates for the Northern Marshall Islands
- 1. Reference (a) indicates that the New Marshallese Government is attempting to locate any measurements or pictures that may have been taken at the Atoll of LIKIEP several days after the detonation of Operation CASTLE, Shot BRAVO in early March 1954. Their interest has focused on a Navy ship that is reported to have arrived at the atoll, unloaded instruments, and taken some pictures at that time.
- 2. The deck log of the USS RENSHAW (DDE-499) for Friday 5 March 1954 indicates that the ship arrived at the Atoll of LIKIEP that evening. The log makes no mention of off-loading instrumentation or of taking any pictures. Other entries indicate that a landing party departed for LIKIEP Island at 0705 on Saturday 6 Mar 1954 and returned to the ship at 0937 that morning. The RENSHAW departed the Atoll of LIKIEP at 1133 on 6 March 1954. Copies of these entries are included as enclosure (1).
- The log of the RENSHAW does not make mention that she had any scientific personnel on board or that she was involved in any special survey operations. It is, of course, possible that when the landing party went ashore, some type of instrumentation might have been taken along. None of the currently available data, however, provides any information on the results of such measurements and it does not appear likely that any final reports would include results of such specifics as these.
- 4. Enclosure (2) entitled, "Long Term Activity Estimates for the Northern Marshall Islands" (unknown source) has been located which provides information on Marshall Islands affected by BRAVO and YANKEE fallout. Although LIKIEP is not included in Table 5, the island of AILUK to the northeast is listed. The table indicates that the dose rates at one hour after detonation on AILUK was 1 R/hr after BRAVO and 0 R/hr after YANKEE. Figure 2 indicates that a 0.1 R/hr fallout intensity isodose line at H + 1 hrs for Shot BRAVO ran approximately through the northern part of LIKIEP

R. T. BELL LCDR MSC USN AT CIC as # 104802

RECEAS	1DDE-499
	<b>ユンシンニチップ</b>

Steaming in company with USS MUNRO (DE-422), enroute from Utirik toll to Kwajalein Island in eccordance with CTG 7.3 disp. 040312Z. Course 218 Tapcc, 208 PSTGC. Speed 11 knots. Ships in column, MUNRO, 2000 yards astern. This ship guide and OTC. Steeming on boilers Nos. 2 and 4, split plant. Condition of readiness three and material condition Baker set., 0330, Sighted Ewsjalein Island Aero beacon, bearing 225,T, distant 20 miles.

E.W. MONROE, LTJG., USNE

Steaming as before. D528, C/C to 270 ExpCC, 260 PSTGC. D600, C/C to 305 TAPCC, 295 PSTGC. D610, USE MUNRO (DE-422) assumed guide, 2000 yards ahead. D636, C/C to 330 TAPGC, 322 PSTGC. D645, C/C to 340 TAPGC, 330 PSTGC. D646, Set the special sea detail. DDE has the conn. Captain and Assigntor on the bredge. USS LURRO detached to proceed interpendently. D710, Pilot Bos'n came aboard. D729, Passed between buoys Nos. 1 and 2, standing into Gea Pass Kwejalsin Atoll Farbor. Steering verious courses and at various eneeds conforming to the Atoll Earbor. - Steering various courses and at various speeds conforming to the

-08-12

Steaming as before. 0809, Captain has the conn. 0830, Koored starboard side to Berth Easy, Kwajalein Atoll Harbor, with standard mooring lines. Phips present 

Willes LTC TUSKR

Noored as before. 1206, Lighted fires under boiler No. 2, and commenced making all preparations for getting underway. 1226, Completed fueling, dreft Twa, 13' 9", art 13'-8". 1300, Completed all preparations for getting underway. Cut in boiler No.-2 and 4, on the main steam line. 1304, Major USA, and Mr. Marshellese interpreter came aboard. 1307, Underway for Likisp Atoll in complinate with verbal orders from CUTF 7. Steaming on boilers Nos. 2 and 4, split plant. Special ses details set ... \*aterial condition Baker set. Captain at the conn, Navigator on the bridge. 1314, Steering various courses and at various speeds to conform to the channel. DOD was given the conn. 1346, Passed between buoks Nos. 1 and 2, took departure for Likiep Atoll, set base course 180 T, speed 18 knots. 1348, Secured the special sea detail, set condition of readiness three. 1355, C/C to 127 Tapcc. 117 PSTGC. 1405, C/C to 123 Tapcc. 113 PSTGC.
1425, C/C to 090 Tapcc, 080 PSTGC. 1132, C/C to 053 Tapcc. 046, PSTGC. 1436, C/C
to 052 Tapcc. 045 PSTGC. 1447, C/S to 25 knots.

Sterming as defore. 1750, Signta: Altie 1501, bearing D80 T., distant 25 miles. 1828, C/C to D85 Tapcc, D79 PSTGC. C/S to 22 knots: 1851, C/C to D80 Tapcc, D74 PSTGC. Set the special set details. ODD at the conn. Captain and the Navigetor on the bridge. Steering various courses and at various speeds standing into Likiep Atoll Lagoon. 1995, Captain at the conn. 1918, 411 angines stopped. Anchored in Likiep Lagoon, in 23 fethoms of water, sand and coral bottom, 95 fethoms of chain to the port anchor on the following bearings; Flag Staff Likiep Island, 105 T., Entrance Island 252 T, Knenuuwan Island 126 T. -1929, Secured the special ses detail. 1935, Secured boiler No. 2. Boiler No. 4 in the for muriliary purposes. Ships present: USS RENSPAR. BOPA is C.O. RENSHAU

20-24
Anchored as before. Springs 7/1 TO D

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Enclosure (1)

HITTED STATES SHIP	PETSEAT	(DDB-499)

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inchored in Likier Issoon. Marshall Islands, in 23 fathoms of water, send and coral bottom, with 90 fathoms of chain to the port enchor on the following bearings; Flagsteff, Likiep Island, 105 T., Entrance Island 252 T., Enenuuwan Island, 126T. Ship in condition of readiness four, material condition Baker set. Boiler No. 4 in use for auxiliary purposes. Ships present some.

Anchored as before. 0700, Lighted fires under boiler No. 2, commenced meking all preparations for getting underway. 0705, Landing party departed for Likiep 

Anchored as before. DB27, Cut in boilers Nos. 2 and 4, on the main steam line. DB40, Completed all preparations for getting underway. 0937, Recovered landing parts from Likian Island. Underway for Jamo Island, in accordance with CTC 7.3, disp. 0507582. Steaming on boilers Nos. 2 and 4, split plant. Material condition Baker set. Maneuvering to clear the anchorage. Captain at the conn. Navigator on the bridge. 0944, Steering various courses and at various speeds, standing out of Likiep Atoll Lagoon. 0951, Cleared the channel and took departure for Jamo Island, set course 180 TaPGC, 168 PSTGC, speed 17 knots. 0952, 000 was given the conn. 0954, C/C to 100 TaPGC, 093 PSTGC. C/S to 22 knots. 0957, Secured the special sea detail, set condition of readiness three. 1000, Made deily inspection of magazines and smokeless powder samples; conditions normal. 1010, C/C to 055 T&PGC, 047 PSTGC. 1022, C/C to 047 T&PGC, 040 PSTGC. 1044, C/C to 030 T&PGC, D22 PSTGC. 1058, Captain at the con... C/C to 045 T&PGC, 037 PSTGC. 030 T&POC. DZ2 PSTCC. 1058, Captain at the con... C/C to 045 T&PCC. D37 PSTCC. C/S to 15 knots. -1103, Maneuvering at various courses and at vpecas, standing off Jemo Island. 1115, Disembarked landing party. 1133, Proceeding on various courses and at varaous speeds, circling Jano Island for charting purposes.

Mathemak

Madeynak L.A. ESYAN, LTJG., USNE

Steaming as before. 1241, Recovered landing party from Jemo Island. 1252, Proceeding to Ailuk Atoll. Base course D60 TaPGC, D53 PSTGC. Speed 15 knots. 1424, C/C to D68 TaPGC, D61\_PSTCC. 1426, C/C to D72 TaPGC, D65 PSTGC. 1432, Set the special sea details. OOD at the conn, Captain and Mavigator on the bridge. 1442, Captain has the conn. 1454, Standing into Ailuk Atoll Lagoon. Steering various courses and at various speeds conforming to the channel.

J.W. HEAL LTJG. USNR

16-20

5teaming as before. 1605, All engines stopped. Anchorec one mile Northwest of Ailuk Island, in 16 fathors of water, coral bottom, with 55 fathors of chain to the port anchor on the following bearings: \* \* Eneos Island, \* O72 T., \* Enemaneman Island, 052 T., Ailuk Island, 152 T. Ships present: USS RENSTAW. SOPA is C.O. Renshaw. 1614, Secured the special ses detail. 2624, Becured boiler No. 2. Boiler No. 4 in use for auxiliary purposes. 1626, Disembarked landing party. 1750, landing party returned.

M.A. HETTLY, LTJG., USAR

20-24

Anchored as perfore.

Anchored as perfore.

D. J. HUSSKII, INS. BENR

D. G. HUSSKII, INS. BENR

D. HUSSK

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This is available, at CIC, Las Vegas as

DOC # 104804

# Long Term Activity Estimates For The Northern Marshall Islands

This paper provides preliminary upper-bound estimates of the residual gamma activity on the northern Marshall Islands due to U.S. atmospheric testing at Bikini. These estimates are intended to be indicative of the activity to be determined by up-coming detailed surveys. Estimates are also provided for islands in the Enewetak atoll and compared with the 1972 survey. Finally, an analysis of wind profiles and fallout patterns is presented which serves to delineate those northern Marshall islands which were uncontaminated by fallout from the Bikini tests.

## I. APPROACH

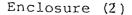
After 20 years or so, the principal fission products of interest are  $\rm Sr^{90}$  and  $\rm Cs^{137}$ , whose characteristics are summarized below.

Isotope	Curies/kt of Fission at H+1	Fraction of Total Curies	Half Life	Decay Mode
Sr <sup>90</sup>	110	2.1×10 <sup>-7</sup>	29 <i>y</i>	β only
Cs <sup>137</sup>	320	6.1×10 <sup>-7</sup>	<b>3</b> 0y	β(100%) and Υ(93%)

The fractional contribution of  $\mathbb{C}s^{137}$  to the one-hour dose rate is not the same as the fraction of total Curies at one hour since the  $\mathbb{C}s^{137}$   $\gamma$  energy is lower than that average energy for all fission products (.66 MeV vs. 2 MeV). This results in a roentgen response for  $\mathbb{C}s^{137}$  that is 0.41 times that for the inventory taken as a whole. At some time after burst, when  $\mathbb{C}s^{137}$  is the only remaining fission product  $\gamma$ -emitter, the dose rate is given by

$$D(T) = D(1 hr) [6.1x10^{-7} \times 0.41] (0.5)^{T/30}$$

where T is in years. Note that beta activity is not being considered here on the presumption that the survey techniques distinguish between



beta and gamma. The above equation permits estimating the long term gamma activity, provided there are one-hour dose rate measurements at the locations of interest.

### II. RESULTS

The first step in the analysis was to compare the dose-rate estimates developed as prescribed above with recent surveys performed for the Enewetak atoll. This comparison would indicate the magnitude of the difference due to neglecting the migration of the isotopes into the soil and plant uptake. Figure 1 is a map of the Enewetak atoll showing the location of 3 islands chosen for the comparison—Alice, Janet, and Yvonne. Table 1 lists the measured dose rate from the 1951-58 operations for these three islands as well as the 1972 estimates for the Cs<sup>137</sup> component.

The 1972 survey (reported in NVOO-140) provides average exposure rates separately for Cs<sup>137</sup> and Co<sup>60</sup>. (This latter isotope is not a fission product but results from weapon debris activation). In addition, average profiles are provided of Cs<sup>137</sup> concentration (pCi/g) versus soil depth for Alice and Janet. It is important to note that there evidently have been no cleanup activities (which would invalidate the comparisons discussed here) on Alice and Janet. Yvonne is a different situation because of construction and earth moving activities during the testing period. Large variations in exposure rates occur on Yvonne; thus, mean levels are misleading. For this reason, Yvonne will be dropped from the comparison.

Table 2 provides the Cs<sup>137</sup> survey data for Alice and Janet. The dose rates can be compared directly with the estimates of Table 1. As expected, the estimates are high since among other reasons it was assumed that the activity was all on the surface. The soil profiles of activity concentration versus depth can be used to develop a pseudo dose rate by relocating the activity back to the surface. A comparison of this value with the estimate is useful in that the difference is



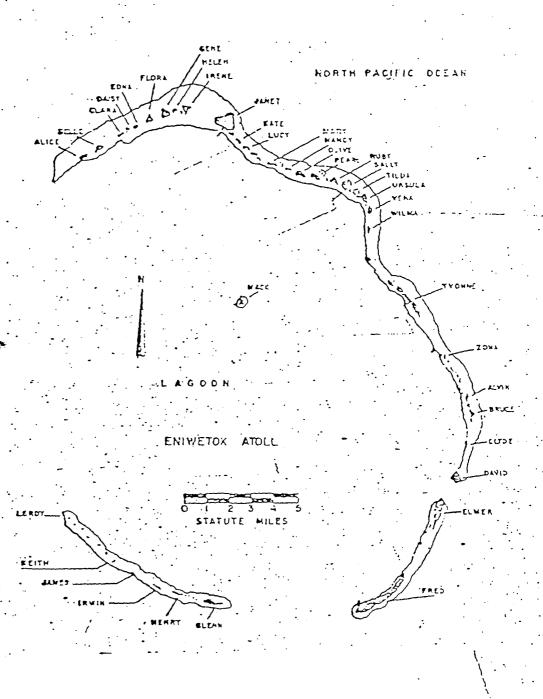


Figure 1. Islands in the Enewetak Atoll

Table 1. Dose Rate Estimates for Enewetak

OPERATION	YEAR	ONE-HOUR DOSE RATES * (R/HR)		
		ALICE	JANET	YVONNE
GREENHOUSE	51	<b>5</b> 50	800 -	0-1000
IVY	52	2000 2000 55		55
CASTLE	54	50 15 0		0
REDWING	<b>5</b> 6	430 480 550-806		550-8060
HARDTACK	58	850	90	305-2500
			·	

\* DASA-1251

ISLAND	1972 DOSE-RATE* ESTIMATE (MR/HR)
ALICE _	0.7
JANET	0.7
YVONNE	0.2-2.0

\*Cs<sup>137</sup> only

Table 2. Selected Cs 137 Data from 1972 Enewetak Survey

Island	Surface Dose Rate (mr/hr)	Activity Density (pC1/g) as a Function of Soil Depth (z in cm)
Alice	.042	67 exp (011 z), 0 < z < 70
Janet	.025	$\begin{cases} 47 \exp (-0.67 z), 0 < z < 8.2 \\ 22 \exp (025 z), 8.2 < z < 75 \\ 0.55 \exp (0031 z), 75 < z < 180 \end{cases}$

then attributable not to soil migration but rather to plant uptake and other losses. To develop this pseudo dose rate, the following equation was used:

$$A(Ci/m^2) = \rho \times 10^{-8} \int_{0}^{z_{max}} \alpha(z) dz$$

where  $\alpha$  is the activity density in pCi/g, z is the depth in cm, p is the soil density (1.8g/cm<sup>3</sup>) and the factor of  $10^{-8}$  provides the conversion from pCi to Ci and from cm<sup>-2</sup> to m<sup>-2</sup>. The dose rate for Cs<sup>137</sup> is given by

$$D(R/HR) = 6.21 A(Ci/m^2)$$

Table 3 summarizes the comparison between the estimated and measured Cs<sup>137</sup> dose rate and the pseudo dose rate as well. As can be seen, the estimate is a factor of about 20 higher than the measured value and that roughly half of this difference can be accounted for by mechanisms other than soil migration. This comparison indicates that simple estimates can be used to provide bounding upper limits and that it might be possible to refine these estimates to within an order of magnitude by correcting for soil migration. The conditions for this refinement would be:

- a.) that for the location of interest, there had been no cleanup or major earth moving prior to the survey and
- b.) that the soil profiles would be similar to that found on undisturbed Enewetak islands receiving fallout (such as Fig. 1409 of "Summary of Findings" chapter of NVOO-140).

Having compared dose rate estimates with survey results for Enewetak, we can now turn to those islands in the northern Marshalls that were contaminated by fallout from shots at Bikini.

Because the estimating scheme being used requires the one-hour dose rate as input, it is important to first establish that off-site measurements were made in all cases where there was fallout on the islands of interest. If these data are incomplete, estimations cannot

Table 3. Comparison of Estimated and Measured Cs 137 Activity

	DOSE RATE (MR/HR) ~		<i>₩</i> ,
ISLAND	ESTIMATE	DIRECT MEASUREMENT	INFERRED FROM SOIL PROFILE*
Alice	0.7	.042	<b>0</b> .50
Janet	0.7	.025	0.10

<sup>\*</sup>Calculated by relocating activity to surface.

<b>~</b>					
 ISLAND	RATIO (ESTI	(MATE/MEASURED)			
ISERNU	DIRECT MEASUREMENT INFERRED MEASUREMENT				
Alice	17	1.4			
Janet	28	7.0			

be made. Table 4 summarizes the fallout pattern characteristics from the Bikini tests. The last column in most cases indicates that the wind directions precluded fallout on the islands. The definite exceptions are Bravo and Yankee. For Bravo and Yankee, off-site measurements were in fact made. None of the Enewetak shots resulted in fallout on Bikini or other islands to the east, so the test operations in Table 1 can be ignored.

Figure 2 shows the Marshall Islands relative to the test locations. The Bravo fallout pattern has been reconstructed independently by AFSWP, NRDL and RAND using some modelling, while the Yankee pattern is based on extensive surveys. The one-hour dose rates for affected islands are given in Table 5. All of the listed islands are outside the lowest dose-rate (100R/HR) contour for Yankee (Rongelap is just barely); the levels are stated only to the nearest decade since extrapolation had to be used. The range of values for Rongelap and Rongerik is due to the variation of the Bravo pattern across the respective island. By and large, Bravo is the predominant contributor.

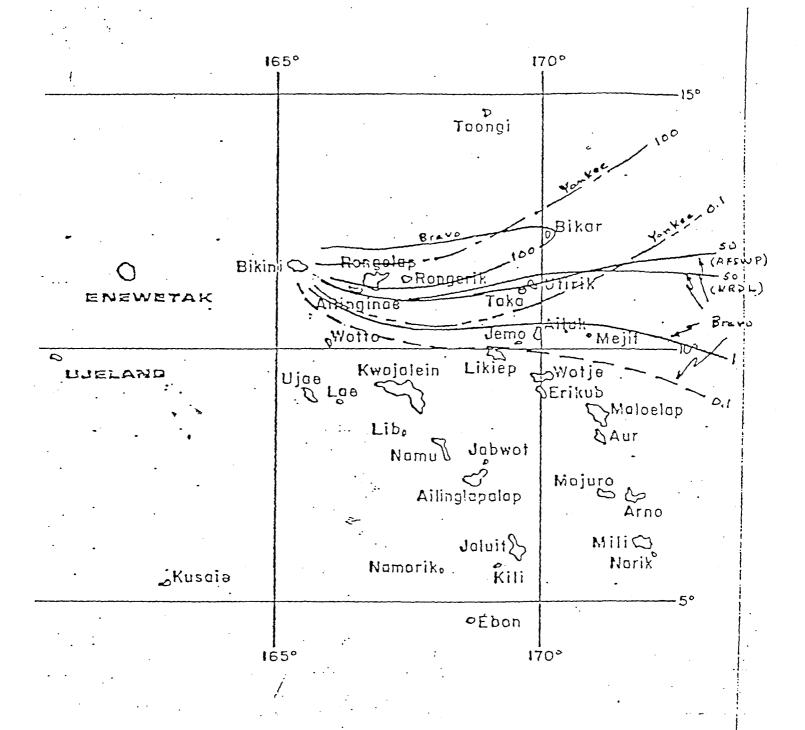
Table 6 provides 1977 estimates of the Cs<sup>137</sup> dose rate for these islands. On the basis of the limited comparison performed for the Enewetak case, these values could be reduced by a factor of about 6 to account for soil migration, provided the geology is similar to that for Enewetak.

The final part of this paper is devoted to identifying with high confidence which islands did not receive fallout from the Bikini tests. Table 4, as discussed above, indicates that only Bravo and Yankee definitely resulted in fallout on the islands; this is based on the use of off-site measurements to reconstruct their respective fallout patterns. The other shots in the Castle operation, for which there were no off-site measurements, apparently were not a problem. However, a detailed investigation is warranted and is reported on in the appendix. Also contained there is an extrapolation of the Bravo and Yankee patterns to a level consistent with background.



Table 4. Fallout from Bikini Shots

				Wind	Off-Site	
	Shot	<u>Yield</u>	Type	Dir (to)	Meas.	Concl.
С	ROSSROADS					
	Able (6-30-46)	23KT	Air	. K	Mo	Direction
	Baker (7-24-46)	. 23KT	UK	ĸ	No	Direction
. C	ASTLE	•		į		
. —	Bravo (2-28-54)	15MT	Surface	E !	Yes	Problem
•	Romeo (3-28-54)	+	Barge	w !	No	Direction
t	Koon (4-6-54)	110KT	Surface	NE	No ·	Direction
:	Union (4-25-54)	+	Barge	NE .	No	Direction
:	Yankee (5-4-54)	. +	Barge	NE.	Yes.	Problem
: p	EDWING	•		1	ર્ન	
	Cherokee (5-20-56)	>1NT	Air	NH i	No	Direction
	Zuni (5-27-56)	3.5MT	Surface	NN (	Yes	Direction
:	Flathead (6-11-56)	3.3/17 <del>1</del>	Barge	N i	Yes	Direction
	Dakota (6-25-56)	+	Barge	,, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	No	Direction
:	Navajo (7-10-56)	+	Barge	NW !	Yes	Direction
	Tewa (7-21-56)	5MT	Barge	NW E	Yes	Direction
	TEND (7 ZI SU)			****	,	
: <u>H</u>	ARDTACK	•	•		1	
	Fir (5-11-58)	+	Barge	. <b>W</b>	No	Direction
•	Nutmeg (5-21-58)	N	Barge	¥	No	Direction
	Sycamore (5-31-58)	•	Barge	H-NE	No	Direction
	Maple (6-10-58)	-	·Barge	₩-N	No	Direction
	Aspen (6-14-58)	-	Barge	N	No	Direction
	Redwood (6-27-58)	-	Barge	KM	No	Direction
	Hickory (6-29-58)	N	Barge	W	No :	Direction
•	Cedar (7-2-58)	-	Barge	NE	No	Direction
_	Poplar (7-12-58)	+	Barge	N-11	<b>N</b> o	Direction
(	Juniper (7-22-58)	~	Barge	NW	No	Direction



· Fallout Intensities in R/hr 0 H+1

Figure 2. Marshall Islands Affected by Bravo and Yankee Fallout

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Table 5. One Hour Dose Rates for Bravo and Yankee

	Dose Rate (R/Hr)		
Island	Bravo	Yankee	
Rongelap	200-2400	100	
Ailinginae	100-200	0.1	
Rongerik	200-800	10	
Taka	<b>2</b> 0	0.1	
Bikar	100	10	
Utirik	<b>2</b> 5	0.1	
Ailuk -	1	0	

Table 6. Cs 137 Dose Rate Estimates for 1977

Island	Dose Rate (mR/HR)
Rongelap	.044 - 3.7
Ailinginae	.015030
Rongerik	.03012
Taka	.003
Bikar .	.015
Utirik	.004
Ailuk	.00015

On the basis of this investigation, the following islands are extremely unlikely to have received fallout from the Bikini or Enewetak tests at levels higher than the background exposure of 200 mrem/year:

Notto	likien	Aur
Ujae	Wotje	Namu
Lae	Erikub	Jabwot
Lib	·Maloelap	qsfsqsfgnifiA
Majuro	Arno	Mili
Namorik	Kili	Narik
Kusaie	Kwajalein	Jaluit
	•	Ebon

and any other islands circumscribed by the above.

The following islands may have received some fallout from nuclear tests. It is unlikely that the intensities would have resulted in an exposure of more than 2 rem the first year; subsequent annual exposures would have been less than background:

Jemo Ailuk Mejit

The following islands did receive fallout with intensities ranging from 1 to 2000 R/hr at 1 hr. They are listed in estimated order of decreasing residual activity:

Rongelap
Taongi (based on cloud drift only - no survey data available)
Rongerik
Ailinginae
Bikar
Utirik
Taka

### III. CONCLUSIONS

The above estimates, even when corrected for soil migration, can only be considered preliminary; they are very likely to be upper bounds. Note that only  ${\rm Cs}^{137}$  has been considered. The addition of  ${\rm Sr}^{90}$  (a beta-emitter) and  ${\rm Co}^{60}$  (which results from weapon debris activation) are necessary in completing the estimates of the total activity present.

The distribution of the activity in the soil, plants and organisms will not be determined by a simple survey of surface contamination. The estimates in this paper, along with such a survey, would be useful in determining such a distribution from the following kinds of additional data:

- a.) water table height and variation
- b.) physical characteristics of the soil strata
- c.) plant categories and root depth.