

HEADQUARTERS
JOINT TASK FORCE SEVEN
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

402951

J-3/ 729.3

21 JUN 1957

SUBJECT: Coordination of Draft Letter

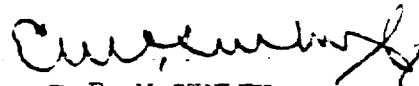
TO: Director
Division of Biology and Medicine
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
1901 Constitution Avenue
Washington 25, D.C.

1. Attached hereto is a draft of a letter which this headquarters proposes to send to the Manager, Santa Fe Operations Office. Copies will be distributed to the agencies indicated. It is requested that you return this draft to this headquarters on or before 28 June with any comments or suggestions which you wish to submit.

2. Another copy of this draft letter has been submitted to General Fields, DMA, USAEC, for his comments.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

1 Incl
Draft letter
to SFOO



E. MCGINLEY
Major General, U.S. Army
Chief of Staff

01451

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

MILITARY RESEARCH & APPL.

J-3/ 729.3

DRAFT

SUBJECT: Responsibilities for Care and Disposition of Native Inhabitants
of Rongelap and Utirik Atolls

TO: Manager
Santa Fe Operations Office
Box 5400
Albuquerque, New Mexico

1. Mr. James E. Reeves of your agency telephoned this headquarters 16 June and discussed with Colonel Byars, J-3 Division, Headquarters JTF SEVEN, the status of Mr. Thomas A. Hardison as representative of General Clarkson on matters concerning the care and disposition of evacuated natives. The question is pertinent since you assumed on 2 June full responsibility for all AEC matters pertaining to the Pacific Proving Grounds.

2. On 14 May 1954, CINCPACFLT requested CJTF SEVEN to advise that agency of the name of the person who would represent CJTF SEVEN in the Forward Area after the personnel of Headquarters, JTF SEVEN returned to Washington. In order to avoid the necessity of leaving indefinitely at Eniwetok a staff officer of this headquarters, CJTF SEVEN designated Mr. Hardison his representative at Eniwetok in connection with the disposition of native inhabitants of Rongelap and Utirik Atolls. Mr. Hardison visited Kwajalein and Majuro Atolls several times and was eminently well-qualified to act as representative of CJTF SEVEN in this matter.

3. As you know, the native inhabitants of Utirik Atoll have been returned from Kwajalein to their home island. The native inhabitants of Rongelap Atoll have been temporarily relocated for a period of about one

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year on Ejit Island of Majuro Atoll, while the radioactive contamination of Rongelap decays to acceptable levels. It is not now contemplated that extensive construction or repair will be necessary on Rongelap Island when the inhabitants of that atoll are returned to their homes. Consequently, it is doubtful that Holmes and Narver, Inc., and the AEC Resident Engineer at Eniwetok will be called upon to take further action in regard to the care and disposition of the natives. Mr. Hardison is, therefore, relieved of any responsibility as CJTF SEVEN representative in this matter. The Commander, Task Group 7.2 will represent CJTF SEVEN at Eniwetok on any problem which might arise in regard to the natives.

4. The responsibilities of interested agencies for the continued care and disposition of the natives of Rongelap and Utirik Atolls are delineated for your information as follows:

a. CINCPAC has overall responsibility under the Department of Defense for the completion of the project for the restoration of atolls, with AEC assistance, and for the return of inhabitants. CINCPAC delegated to CINCPACFLT its responsibility in this connection. CINCPACFLT instructed COMNAVSTAKTAWJ to coordinate and act as its local representative in the discharge of CINCPACFLT responsibilities in connection with the displaced natives. COMNAVSTAKTAWJ designated LCDR Robert W. Wells the Project Officer to represent CINCPACFLT interests.

b. The routine welfare and care of all Marshall Island natives are continuing responsibilities of the High Commissioner, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, as agent for Department of the Interior.

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c. The Division of Biology and Medicine, AEC, will continue to monitor the physical condition of the native inhabitants of Rongelap and Utirik Atolls who were exposed to radioactive contamination as a result of the first shot of the CASTLE series. Parties of medical and rad-safe personnel under the direction of Division of Biology and Medicine, AEC, will visit the natives and the atolls concerned periodically in order to observe the medical progress of the natives and to ascertain the earliest possible time for the return of the Rongelap natives to their homes. The first visit of this AEC-sponsored group is planned for August or September of this year. Representatives of this headquarters will accompany the AEC party.

d. JTF SEVEN naturally has a continuing interest in this matter. JTF SEVEN has furnished funds to pay certain medical expenses for the natives while at Kwajalein, for the procurement of livestock to replace that lost as a result of the contamination, for the construction of a temporary village at Majuro Atoll, for the purchase of food and clothing supplies, and for other purposes. JTF SEVEN will continue to provide funds for the provision of food for the Rongelap natives while they are at Majuro and will pay for initial food stocks when they are returned to their homes. CTG 7.2 will represent CJTF SEVEN at Eniwetok in connection with disposition of Utirik and Rongelap natives in the event any problems arise which can and must be handled at the Pacific Proving Grounds.

5. Santa Fe Operations Office has no routine responsibilities for

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the continued care and disposition of these natives. The erection of the temporary village at Majuro under the supervision of Mr. Hardison was performed with promptness and efficiency. According to reports received here, the construction is excellent. The assistance and cooperation provided by Mr. Hardison and his assistants is greatly appreciated.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

Copy Furnished:

CINCPACFLT

COMNAVSTAKTAF

Mr. T.A. Hardison, USAEC, Eniwetok

CTG 7.2, Eniwetok

HICOMTERPACIS - Mr. Frank Midkiff

Mr. George Speigel, Dept of State

DMA, AEC - Lt Col Greenberg

DBM, AEC - Dr. John Bugher

E. McGINLEY

Major General, U.S. Army

Chief of Staff