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May 25, 1954

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CHANGES IN ANSWERS TO STATE DEPARTMENT

SYMBOL: BMBP:OND

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The following are suggested changes in the answers to be furnished to the State Department re list of possible questions concerning testing at the Pacific Proving Ground.

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1. Page 1, 2d par. of ans. 2. Rewrite as follows:

"It is, of course, difficult to evaluate precisely the psychological impact of an incident of this kind. The AEC has observed, however, that

- (a) the evacuees were very satisfied with their treatment and living conditions at Kwajalein and with the announced plans to restock their islands;
- (b) possibly the greatest concern to the natives is (in their minds) the uncertainty of return to their home islands. Reassurances of their return have been made and will continue to be given."

2. Page 2, lines 16 and 17. Reword: "Some 30 of these same persons also suffered loss of hair in patches on the scalp." (We can not say "small" patches since some of the children lost essentially all their hair on one side of their head.)

3. Page 3, lines 3 through 7. Reword "... on Rongelap in approximately 6 months to one year. At that time they will be furnished livestock, provisions and impediments which will establish living conditions at least equivalent to those which obtained immediately prior to the initial evacuation." (This is somewhat less belittling than to speak of reestablishing them at a level superior to that to which they were accustomed.)

4. Page 3, line 21. Reword "... least for the present. The information presently available indicates that the fish in

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the lagoons of Mongalap, Mongerik, and Utirik are suitable for consumption at this present time."

5. Page 4, lines 18 and 19. Suggest that we spell out just what were the "normal channels and formal notices" that were used. I have seen these described in a report from Task Force 7. They are not too long and I believe would be a useful contribution to the State Department.
6. Page 5, lines 6 and 7. Record "If during these patrol and survey periods the Task Force had noted ...".
7. Page 5. Suggest the last sentence be omitted. It raises more questions than it answers and is not essential to our answer.

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