



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DEFENSE ATOMIC SUPPORT AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

23 DEC 1966

ADDRESS REPLY **LGOI**

Mr. William A. Bonnet
Honolulu Area Office
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
P. O. Box 580
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

REPOSITORY DOE/PASO
COLLECTION DOE/NV
BOX No. 1228, ERDA #3
BIO-MED, DR. CONARD
FOLDER 01 Thru 12/1967

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Dear Mr. Bonnet:

This is in reply to your letter of 2 December 1966.

Your assumption is correct that Inclosure 2 to your letter was sent to your office in error. This headquarters will forward payment for land rental as billed. Copy of letter of transmittal will be furnished to you.

Since Mr. Norwood addressed his request to your office and his support and good will to the success of your mission in the Trust Territory is important to you, information is furnished for your use in answering his letter. It is requested that a copy of your correspondence in regard to these matters be furnished this headquarters.

In regard to the availability of Bikini, DASA holds no interest in this island. Inquiries have been made and it has been learned that the island is presently being utilized by the Department of the Air Force and is now included in the USAF real property inventory. It is suggested that you advise him that he should contact the USAF regarding his need for returning natives to the island so that he may obtain first hand information regarding availability of the island directly from the accountable Military Department. His correspondence should be addressed directly to the Secretary of the Air Force.

For information regarding salvage rights to abandoned vessels he should direct an inquiry to Assistant Secretary of Defense (Installations and Logistics), Washington, D. C.

The Director, DASA, for the Secretary of Defense (DOD), currently holds leases for facilities on the following islands: Kapingamarangi, Kusaie, Wotho, Ujelang, Rongelap and Utirik.

LGCI

Mr. William A. Bonnet

Under date of 16 August 1963 Director, DASA, released all buildings on the above six islands to the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory to be disposed of as he saw fit. A copy of that action is attached as Inclosure 1.

Under date of 1 December 1966 Director, DASA, forwarded a Memorandum to the Secretary of Defense recommending that leases on the six islands be terminated. A copy of that memorandum is attached as Inclosure 2.

Since you have indicated a requirement for use of facilities on the Islands of Rongelap and Utirik, you will be advised immediately of the decision made by the Secretary of Defense regarding termination of the leases on these islands. In the event the Secretary directs that DOD should continue the leases and upon receipt of a request from you, Director, DASA, will initiate action to make the leased areas on these two islands available to you, subject to future DOD requirements.

In the interim, it is suggested that you advise Mr. Norwood of your requirements for facilities on these islands and initiate negotiations with him to determine whether the buildings you will require are available.

Sincerely,

J. A. DARE
Rear Admiral, USN
Deputy Director, Opn and Admin

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