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February 26, 1963

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The Chief, Defense Atomic
Support Agency
DASALG 370
Department of Defense
Washington 25, D. C.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Dear Sir:

This concerns the six Weather/Rad Safe sites formerly leased by the Atomic Energy Commission and now maintained by the Defense Atomic Support Agency in the Marshall Islands and Ponape District of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. The sites are available for DASA utilization under an agreement, effective July 1, 1960, between your agency and the Trust Territory.

Under the terms of the agreement, the Trust Territory Government has leased land for the sites from private individuals. We have recently received correspondence from our Districts urging that the lands involved be returned to the owners in the near future. In addition, there have been inquiries concerning salvaging material from or otherwise using or occupying buildings and other structures at the sites.

Inspection by Trust Territory Government personnel has confirmed reports that many of the structures are deteriorating very rapidly and will shortly be unusable.

The last memorandum received from your agency concerning the sites, dated July 27, 1961, seems to indicate that the DASA plans to retain the sites indefinitely for possible future use. In light of the inquiries received by this office as mentioned above, it is requested that plans for the sites be reviewed and that we be advised of any change in plans for any or all of the Weather/Rad Safe sites in the Trust Territory.

A statement of the DASA's present policy in respect to use or occupancy of the buildings and other structures at the sites would be most helpful to us. Under what circumstances might salvage rights be granted for DASA buildings and materials?

A reply at your earliest convenience would be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Jose A. Benitez
Deputy High Commissioner

Gaughes:dm
File: Legal

cc: Interior rel