



407816

Department of Energy
Nevada Operations Office
P.O. Box 14100
Las Vegas, NV 89114-4100

January 26, 1983

Mr. James DeFrancis
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, CP-2
U.S. Department of Energy
Washington, D.C.

Dear Jim:

I refer to a memorandum to you from Tom McCraw dated December 16, 1982:

Meeting on DOE/EP Northern Marshalls Survey - Majuro Atoll,
December 8-9, 1982

Since I was not on distribution for this memorandum it was almost a month after it was issued before it came to my attention. Before responding to it I felt it necessary to have at hand the verbatim transcript (from tape) which was then in preparation. I now have that transcript and have had a chance to review Mr. McCraw's impressions and recollections. Preparation for our meeting last week and for my travel to the Pacific today, however, have kept me from developing a detailed response--something which I most assuredly intend to do.

What I ask at this time is that you reserve judgement upon the Majuro meetings until you can be presented with a factual account and an analysis-in-context of what actually was said.

I can tell you at this time that, after a careful reading of the transcript, there is no substantive change that I would make in my statements or those of Drs. Bair and Robison. Nor do I believe that either of these latter two would substantially change any statement of theirs or mine. Mr. McCraw made no substantive statements. We neither made nor advocated any change in Department policy, nor do I acknowledge that I made statements "not compatible with past policy," as alleged. As to the alleged confusion on the part of our Marshallese hosts I would say that if there were not some confusion it would suggest that we were not communicating effectively. I have never yet attended a public meeting on radiation matters where the complexity of the subject did not evoke some degree of confusion and concern. I will, however, offer two direct quotes from the transcript, the first from a member of the parliament (addressed to me):

DOE ARCHIVES

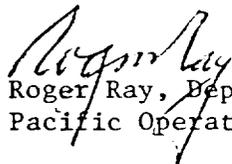
"I really feel that we can now ask things that we want to know and feel comfortable, we want to build on this relationship of sharing information with each other. What we know we tell you, what you know you tell us. What we don't know we admit to that, on both sides, so I am really thankful for the opportunity to ask this of you and if you don't know the answer would you convey it where it should go, be our voice in asking."

and the second from the closing remarks of the Chief Secretary:

"On behalf of the President who is not here or the Acting President, I ought to express our extreme gratitude and sincere thanks for the teams coming, presenting us with this information from the study made and your report at this time to this group. Especially grateful for this kind of setting we are able to sit down face to face, discuss these matters, raise questions and get answers or at least have them raised so the answers can be forthcoming eventually in the future. We are encouraged by such a gathering and are grateful to have had this."

I conscientiously believe that the Majuro meetings of December 8-9 were constructive, honest, consistent with DOE and overall U.S. Government policy and well received by the Republic of the Marshall Islands. As party leader, I have a responsibility to provide a complete and factual record of that expedition. That is in preparation, and I am quite willing to have our actions judged on that record.

Sincerely,


Roger Ray, Deputy for
Pacific Operations

cc:

D. E. Patterson, USDOE, (EP-32) GTN
B. Wachholz, USDOE, (EP-32) GTN
B. Siebert, USDOE, (DP-3.1) GTN
J. Thiessen, USDOE, (ER-71) GTN
A. Fingeret, USDOE, (GC-23) FORSTL
J. Rudolph, USDOE, (DP-224) GTN
M. Crosland, USDOE, (GC-34) FORSTL
T. McCraw, USDOE, (EP-32) GTN

DOE ARCHIVES