

MAY 23 12 57 PM '54

PP RUWPLR RUHPB RUHPJA

DE RUWFJE 094

P 231755Z

FM USAEC ALBUQUERQUE NMEX

TO RUWPLR/H AND N LOSA

INFO RUHPB/H AND N HONOLULU

RUHPJA/WYNKOOP USAEC ENIWETOK

ZEN JAMES REEVES USAED MERCURY NEV

AEC GRNC

BT

FM JOE B SANDERS PD FOR YOUR INFORMATION CMM DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR  
WILL ISSUE RELEASE ON RETURN OF RONGELAPESE TO THEIR HOME ISLAND FOR  
PUBLICATION IN MORNING PAPERS OF MAY 24 PD AEC IS NOT REPEAT NOT  
ISSUING RELEASE PD TEXT FOLLOWS CLN

RONGALAP PEOPLE TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES IN THE TRUST TERRITORY OF  
THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

PLANS ARE BEING MADE FOR THE RETURN OF THE RONGELAP PEOPLE WHO WERE  
EXPOSED TO FALLOUT DURING THE NUCLEAR EXPERIMENTS AT THE U S ATOMIC  
ENERGY COMMISSION'S ENIWETOK PROVING GROUND IN MARCH CMM 1954 CMM  
TO THEIR HOME ATOLL IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS IN ABOUT TWO MONTHS CMM  
CFN 1954

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

DOE/AND

PERSONNEL *Natives & PD*  
215Personnel  
(all Breaks) FY-57

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THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR ANNOUNCED TODAY PD PARA THE PLANS ARE BEING MADE AS A RESULT OF INFORMATION FROM THE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION THAT THE PEOPLE MAY BE RETURNED TO RONGELAP PD THE COMMISSION HAS ADVISED THE DEPARTMENT THAT IT HAS CAREFULLY EVALUATED DATA FROM SEVERAL RADIOLOGICAL SURVEYS MADE DURING THE PAST TWO AND ONE-HALF YEARS PD THE RESULTS OF THE LATEST SURVEY INDICATE THE PRESENCE OF RESIDUAL RADIOACTIVITY AT A LEVEL THAT IS ACCEPTABLE FROM A HEALTH POINT OF VIEW CMM BOTH AS REGARDS THE POTENTIAL EXTERNAL GAMMA RADIATION EXPOSURE AND STRONTIUM-90 IN THE FOOD SUPPLY CMM WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF LAND CRABS PD THE RONGELAP INHABITANTS WILL BE ADVISED NOT TO EAT LAND CRABS CMM PENDING THE RESULTS OF FUTURE RADIOLOGICAL SURVEYS PD LAND CRABS ARE NOT A MAJOR ITEM IN THEIR NORMAL DIET PD PARA EIGHTY-TWO RONGELAP INHABITANTS WERE REMOVED FROM THEIR HOME ATOLL FOLLOWING THE FALLOUT THAT OCCURRED AFTER THE MARCH 1 CMM 1954 NUCLEAR TEST AT THE ENIWETOK PROVING GROUNDS PD THEY REMAINED ON KWAJALEIN UNTIL JUNE CMM 1954 CMM WHEN THEY WERE MOVED TO A VILLAGE CONSTRUCTED FOR THEM ON EJIT ISLAND IN THE MAJURO ATOLL PD PARA A NUMBER OF RONGELAP INHABITANTS WHO WERE AWAY FROM THE ATOLL AT THE TIME OF THE FALLOUT ALSO HAVE BEEN LIVING ON EJIT OR ELSEWHERE IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS PD THE SIZE OF THE GROUP ALSO HAS CFN STRONTIUM-90 1 1954 1954

UOE/AM

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BEEN INCREASED BY MARRIAGES WITH NON-RESIDENTS OF RONGELAP AND BY BIRTHS CMM AND ABOUT 200 PERSONS WILL BE RETURNED TO THE ISLAND PD THE SUPERFICIAL RADIATION SKIN BURNS RECEIVED BY SOME OF THE PEOPLE AS A RESULT OF THEIR EXPOSURE WERE HEALED BY THE FALL OF 1954 PD THERE HAS BEEN A REGROWTH OF HAIR CMM NORMAL IN COLOR CMM TEXTURE AND AMOUNT CMM IN THE INDIVIDUALS WHO EXPERIENCED LOSS OF HAIR FOLLOWING THE FLLOUT PD THE PEOPLE HAVE RECEIVED PERIODIC MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS FROM ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION SPECIALISTS AND TRUST TERRITORY PHYSICIANS PD MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS WILL BE CONTINUED IN THE FUTURE PD PARA PLANS FOR THE REHABILITATION OF RONGELAP INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW HOMES AND COMMUNITY BUILDINGS CMM REPLACEMENT OF VILLAGE ACCESS PATHS CMM INCREASED WATER SHORTAGE FACILITIES CMM AND INSTALLATION OF A TWO-WAY RADIO COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY PD END  
REF ETA CLN CAG-4591

BT

CFN 200 1954 ETA CLN CAG-4591

23/1835Z *W W 11/1*

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