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OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

23 JUL 1974

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

In reply refer to:
I-5931/74

Mr. Atlan Anien, Speaker
Marshall Islands Legislature
P.O. Box 24
Majuro, Marshall Islands
96960

Dear Speaker Anien:

I wish to acknowledge for the Secretary of Defense his receipt of the Marshall Islands District Legislature's Resolution No. 38 N.D.-1, "Expressing the displeasure of the Marshall Islands Nitijela to the Government of the United States for the treatment of the chiefs and their people regarding their atoll, Rongerik Atoll", a copy of which was forwarded in your letter of June 25, 1974.

The question of determining if "... there is radiation in the soil, the forestry, the crops and the fish in the surrounding sea..." is a matter under the purview of the Atomic Energy Commission, and I shall forward a copy of your resolution to that organization for their investigation of this matter.

Sincerely,
T. J. Bieley
Rear Admiral, USN
Director, East Asia & Pacific Region

A RESOLUTION

Expressing the displeasure of the Marshall Islands Nitijela to the Government of the United States for the treatment of the chiefs and their people regarding their atoll, Rongerik Atoll.

1 WHEREAS, it is now twenty-five years since the United
2 States tested atomic and hydrogen bombs; and

3 WHEREAS, the people of Rongerik knew that the fallout from
4 the testing on Bikini affected Rongerik; and

5 WHEREAS, during these twenty-five years, the Rongerikese
6 people have not been able to return to Rongerik but have been
7 living on various atolls such as Rongelap and Kwajalein; and

8 WHEREAS, the chiefs and the people strongly believe that
9 during the testing of the bombs, the ashes which fell on Rongelap
10 and Utirik also fell on Rongerik; and that the harm done to those
11 two atolls was also done to Rongerik; and

12 WHEREAS, the chiefs and their people lack any scientific
13 knowledge to determine if there is radiation in the soil, the
14 forestry, the crops and the fish in the surrounding sea or to
15 determine whether Rongerik is safe enough for them to return and
16 live; and

17 WHEREAS, although often by resolution in past sessions, the
18 Marshall Islands Nitijela has expressed these feelings of the
19 chiefs and their people, together with the District Administrator
20 of the Marshalls and the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory
21 of the Pacific Islands, to the Government of the United States,
22 nothing has come out of it; now, therefore,

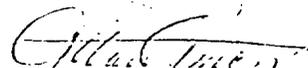
23 BE IT RESOLVED by the Marshall Islands Nitijela in its 21st
24 Regular Session, 1974, that it hereby expresses its displeasure
25 to the Government of the United States for the treatment of the
26 chiefs and their people regarding their atoll, Rongerik Atoll; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be the last
2 resolution in the Marshall Islands Nitijela regarding this desire;
3 to urge the District Administrator of the Marshalls, the Congress
4 of Micronesia; the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory of
5 the Pacific Islands, the United Nations, the Secretary of the
6 Department of Defense, the Secretary of the Department of State,
7 and the President of the United States, to join forces and convince
8 the Congress of the United States to make amends for the damage
9 done to the Rongerik chiefs, their people and their island in ways
10 that would yield a better living and settlement; and that the
11 Congress of the United States appropriate \$1,000,000 to help these
12 people and their atoll accordingly; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if no action regarding this
14 purpose is taken by the Congress of the United States that these
15 chiefs and their people proceed and take the matter to the World
16 Court; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this reso-
18 lution be sent to the President of the United States; to the
19 Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate of the Congress
20 of the United States; to the Secretaries of the Department of
21 Interior, Defense, and State; to the Ambassadors of the Union of
22 Soviet Socialist Republics and Peoples Republic of China of the
23 Trusteeship Council of the United Nations; to the High Commissioner
24 of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands; to the President
25 of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives,
26 Congress of Micronesia and to the District Administrator, Marshalls

27 Certified: Jan 22 1971

28 
29 Atlan Anien, Speaker

30 
31 Bryant Zebedy, Legislative Secretary