Bikini atoll. The health and safety of the Bikini people was given the highest priority in considering the question of whether the atoll was now ready for resettlement. The decision to return the atoll to the Bikini people was made only after a careful evaluation of levels of radioactivity that are present there. These levels were measured throughout a wide range of samples including dietary items collected in 1964 and again in 1967. Also included in the 1967 data are an extensive collection of external radiation measurements taken throughout the atoll.

The survey results and associated estimates of exposure developed from these data were evaluated by a committee of experts eminently qualified to make a judgment on the health and safety aspects of resettlement of the atoll. The committee conclusion was that exposures to radiation that would result from repatriation of the Bikini people do not offer a significant threat to their health and safety. The committee recommended a number of simple measures that should further reduce exposure and these are being carried out.

Again let me thank you for your letter and copies of your lectures.

Sincerely,

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Tommy F. McCraw
Nuclear Explosives Environmental
Safety Branch
Division of Operational Safety

bcc: Honolulu Area Office
C. R. Richmond, BM
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