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May 6, 1954

MEMORANDUM TO: Dr. John C. Bugher

There are attached herewith the letter dated 30 April 1954 (Confidential) from Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr. to Mr. Strauss, the draft statement prepared by Brown, Dunham, and Mackenzie for the briefing of Lodge, and the AEC suggested draft to be sent to the State Department for use in answering the Marshallese petition.

I would appreciate it if you would return these documents to my office when you are finished with them.

John Mackenzie, Jr.

encls.
AEC
Office of the Chairman

Without Attachments
CONFIRMED TO BE UNCLASSIFIED
AUTHORITY: 25X-12-88
BY S. R. SCHMIDT, DATES
HR/Schmidt 6/16/94
Re Carpenter 6-17-94

MILITARY RESEARCH & APPL.

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DRAFT
LONKIN
5-5-54

USUN PRESS RELEASE

Statement of the United States Representative to the United Nations
Concerning the Petition of the Marshallese People Regarding
Thermonuclear Tests in the Trust Territory of the
Pacific Islands

My Government greatly regrets the effects which the recent thermonuclear tests in the Pacific Proving Grounds appear to have had on certain of the inhabitants of the Marshall Islands, as described in the petition to the United Nations. That any of the inhabitants of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands should have suffered in the slightest from the effects of these tests is a matter of concern to the American people and Government. I can assure them, as well as the Members of the United Nations, that the authorities in charge are doing everything possible to prevent any recurrence. Specifically, the 236 inhabitants who, because of a windshift, were within the area affected by a fallout, remain under observation and any of them who may need it will receive the best medical attention. They and the American personnel of the group taking part in the test who were also exposed to the fallout from the March 1st test were immediately provided with identical medical treatment. As soon as it was apparent that these people were exposed to fallout, they were evacuated to the U. S. Naval Station at Kwajalein, where care was immediately provided by the U. S. Navy. In addition, a team composed of medical experts from Atomic Energy Commission, U. S. Army and Navy, was promptly formed and sent to the area, to assure that all available medical attention and care for the personal welfare of these people were provided. The services of the American Red Cross office at Kwajalein were supplied in furthering the comfort of all. I am informed that there is no medical reason to expect any permanent after-effects on their general health, due to the fallout.

CONFIRMED BY: BE UNCLASSIFIED
AUTHORITY: DOE/ER-02
BY: H. A. SCHMIDT, DATES:
HAR/L 6/16/94
P. A. Carpenter 6-17-94

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While it is impossible at this time to assure the petitioners that their first request will be met, namely, that "all experiments with lethal weapons within this area be immediately ceased, " I can say that, as the petitioners rightly imply, the United States would not be conducting such tests if it had not been determined, after very careful study, that they were required in the interests of general peace and security.

The selection of testing sites in this particular area was made after careful examination of the alternative possibilities and in an effort to insure that the tests were carried out with least possible danger.

The United States Government considers the requests and the suggestions of the petitioners eminently reasonable and valuable. The restraint and moderation with which they have been put forward cannot but elicit the admiration and sympathy of all concerned.

As suggested, my Government is taking and will continue to take "all possible precautionary measures - before such weapons are exploded." It also agrees that "all the people in the area be instructed in safety measures." Further, it is reasonable and right, as the petitioner suggests, that any Marshallese citizens who are removed as a result of test activities, will be re-established in their original habitat in such a way that no financial loss would be involved to those so moved; also, that instruction be given to Marshallese medical practitioners and health aides which will be useful in detecting dangers and avoiding harm.

My Government, and the officers immediately concerned with the administration of the territory, greatly appreciate the words of commendation of the petitioners with respect to the way the territory is being administered.

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The welfare of the inhabitants has been the constant concern of the Government, and particularly of the High Commissioner, who will continue to spare no effort necessary to give effect to the trusteeship agreement. The High Commissioner will be available to the forthcoming meeting of the Trusteeship Council for any further information which may be requested.

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