(a) In connection with easing the plight of the Rongerik natives the administration has taken the following steps:

1. The atoll is being visited by field trips on an average of every three weeks. This is accomplished by staggering both the western and northern circuits and including Rongerik in each circuit.

2. The amount of food stuffs left with them has been increased. In this connection it is obvious that they must be placed on at least a partial subsistence basis for the time being and it is recommended that this unit be authorized to assume the cost of this subsidy.

3. In as much as handicraft is their only source of cash income it is recommended that ITC purchase all handicraft manufactured on Rongerik that is at all saleable and not restrict such purchase to firm order. This will also result in partial subsidy and cost of such should be transferred to this unit. It is believed that at least some of the cost of the food subsidy can be redeemed in this manner.

4. It is also recommended that the Rongerik natives be temporarily released from payment of taxes and that their officials be paid by civil administration rather than out of local funds.