

1 (Rehabilitation)

(a) UJELANG - The rehabilitation of Ujelang is completed so far as the commitments of civil administration are concerned. Any additional construction and cleaning will be accomplished by the inhabitants themselves. It is expected that many small buildings will be constructed for use as cook houses, storage, etc, to meet the personal desires of the individual.

The completed project includes 32 dwelling houses, 12 cisterns, 6 pit type latrines, 2 stores, 2 copra houses, a church, a school and a council house. All buildings were constructed on the sites selected by the chiefs. All community buildings are constructed on concrete foundations, with galvanized sheet metal sides and roof. All sheet metal was chromated and painted forrest green.

(a) (1) RONGERIK-- The natives from Rongerik (Ex-Bikini) are now living in a small village at Kwajalein. No definite decision has been reached as to where they will finally resettle; however the possibilities have narrowed to Wotho Atoll and Kili Island. Ten Alaps were chosen from among the Rongerik people to inspect these possible sites and inform the population of conditions there. The result is a split in desires and understandably so since there are many good and bad features in either place. In the meantime these people are in all respects enjoying a normal existence. All those able bodied are employed by the various activities of the island.

(a) (2) On 5 April 1948 the Civil Administrator met with two of the paramount chiefs of the Kwajalein District, These two were JEMITA, paramount chief of the Bikini people and LAJORE who owns Rongerik where the Bikini people had been living. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the future of the Bikini people. JEMITA was accompanied by his oldest son LAJOLAN and the latter's wife LITARJIJIT, LAJOLAN is being groomed by JEMITA as his successor. It was interesting to note that LITARJIKIT took an active part in the discussions. She appears to be a very intelligent and capable woman.

6 July 1948

Kwajalein

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The choice of a future home for the ex-Bikini people was narrowed down to Wotho Atoll and Kili Island. JEMITA was in hopes that the Bikini people would chose Wotho. His plan was to put one third of the people on Wotho Island and two thirds on Kapen Island and give them the rights in all the islands between them on the east side of the atoll. The pros and cons of both Wotho and Kili were discussed thoroughly. JEMITA was asked to present his suggestion to the Bikini people and discuss it with them.

After completing the discussion of the Bikini people the chiefs were asked if there were any other problems they wished to discuss. LAJORE requested that the government settle the question of the chiefs share of the copra price. This was last settled by the Japanese at fifty-fifty but nothing has been done by the Americans. LAJORE was informed that the matter would be taken up with higher authority and a decision made.

The Civil Administrator thanked LAJORE for coming to Kwajalein and excused him from further participation in talks on the Bikini people.

On 12 April 1948 the Governor of the Marshall Islands, the Civil Administrator, JEMITA, LAJOLEN, JUDAH and three (3) alaps of the Bikini people flew to Wotho to inspect the lands offered to the Bikinians by JEMITA. After an inspection of Wotho Island and Kapen Island the party returned to Kwajalein and JUDAH and his alaps were requested to discuss the possibilities of Wotho with his people.

On 3 May 1948 JUDAH and 10 other Bikini men were taken by LCI to Kili where they were left to live for two weeks. They were provided with hatches, axes, water and basic foods. On 17 May 1948 they were returned to Kwajalein and JUDAH was requested to discuss the possibilities of Kili with his people.

May 25th was set as the day for the Bikini people to decide by secret ballot where they would like to live. On 24 May a group of Bikinians called on the Civil Administrator

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and requested a weeks postponement of the election to allow for further discussion. The election was then set for June 1st. In the meantime the Civil Administrator had aerial photographs made of both Kili and Wotho and prepared a written summary of the advantages and disadvantages of both places. These were posted in the village so all the Bikinians could see them. Several times during the week prior to the election delegations of Bikinians called on the Civil Administrator and said that they couldn't make up their minds and requested that the Civil Administrator make the decision for them. It was explained to these people that the decision had to be theirs but that the Civil Administrator would be glad to discuss with them anything they wanted to know concerning both places but that he could not make the decision for them. Finally on June 1st the election was held and Kili was chosen by a vote of 54 to 22. The result was forwarded to the High Commissioner and the final decision is being awaited.

The Civil Administrator believes that if Kili is to be the home of the ex-Bikini people that JEMITA should be invested with the same rights and privileges in Kili that he enjoyed as the paramount chief of Bikini.

(b) Schools.

A permanent school building was completed at Ujelang during the quarter. This building is 15' x 30' with a concrete foundation. Benches were brought from Eniwetok at the same time of the move from that Atoll.

(c) Churches.

No change since last report.

(d) Community buildings important in local culture.

No change since last report.