

(a) Direct aid to the natives in this area is not necessary. It may develop later on that assistance will be required by the people of RONGERIK (Ex BIKINI) and a Board of Investigation established by the Commander Marshalls Sub-Area is now gathering facts for a complete presentation of this situation. This probably will consist principally of providing basic facilities for a new village. (See Exhibit V). Indications are that the situation is not critical and there is no evidence of malnutrition or suffering on the island, although the food production is practically negligible. It is being supplemented by importation from neighboring atolls and by purchases from the trade store. None of the islands of the Northern Marshalls are considered over-productive and the condition therefore is relatively less severe than if the inhabitants were accustomed to the plentiful food supply of the more fertile atolls in the south.

EXHIBIT V

30 May 1947

From: Chief Military Govt. Officer, Marshall Sub-Area  
 To: Commander Edward B. Miller, U.S. N.R., Commanding Officer, U.S.N.M.G. Unit, Navy #824, Kwajalein, Marshall Islands.  
 Subject: Board to investigate and report on the Resettlement of the Bikini - Rongerik Natives.  
 Reference: (a) General Inspector, Commander in Chief Pacific Ocean Area letter serial 131, dated 14 November 1946, (Par. 21, page 4).  
 (b) Commander Marianas restricted letter serial 3837, dated 24 February 1947.  
 1. A board consisting of yourself as senior member and of Mr. Gerald J. Foley, Senior

Representative, U.S. Commercial Company, Marshall Area, and Lt. Clarence B. Watson, U.S.N. as additional members, and of Ens. Roy J. Ragland, U.S.N., as recorder, will convene at this command on Saturday May 31, 1947, or as soon thereafter as practicable, for the purpose of investigating and reporting upon the proposed resettlement of the Bikini - Rongerik Natives.

2. The board is directed to pay special attention to reference (a), and shall be guided by reference (b), and by Naval Courts and Boards procedure in Courts of Inquiry and Investigation.

3 The board will make a thorough investigation into:

- (a) present status of the Bikini - Rongerik natives as to living and economic conditions at Rongerik, Marshall Islands.
- (b) obtaining opinions from the Bikini - Rongerik natives regarding their desires for Rongerik, Marshall Islands, or other locations.
- (c) investigating other prospective and more fertile locations for these people to live, such as Wotho, Ujae, and any other location considered feasible.
- (d) political, economic, and property implications involved with the proposed resettlement of the Bikini - Rongerik people and make a survey of logistic factors involved with such movement.

4 Upon completion of this investigation a written report is to be submitted to me including the following: (a) facts, (b) opinions, and (c) recommendations regarding the proposed resettlement.

5. The commanding officer, U.S.N.M.G. Unit, Navy 824, Kwajalein, Marshall Islands is hereby directed to furnish the necessary clerical assistance.

/s/ G.A. Seitz Chief MG Of  
Commodore, U.S. Navy