



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

HEADQUARTERS, KWAJALEIN MISSILE RANGE
BOX 26, APO SAN FRANCISCO 96555

BMDSC-RKE-0

25 October 1978

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Kwajalein Atoll Inter-Island Community Relations
Committee Meeting

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1. Subject meeting was held at 1000 on 10 October 1978 at Kwajalein in the KMR second floor conference room, Terminal Building. Members present were:

Iroij Lejolan Kabua
Mr. Yashio Bolkeim, Chief Magistrate, Kwajalein Atoll
Mr. Vince Muller, Deputy DISTAD Rep, Kwajalein Atoll
Mr. Scott Stege, Trust Territory Liaison Officer
Rev Pijja Matauto, Protestant Missionary, Ebeye
Mrs. Pat Cataldo, Community Rep, Kwajalein
Mr. Meleran Jelke, Marshallese Workforce Representative
Mr. R. E. Haley, KMR TT Liaison Officer

2. Iroij Lejolan Kabua opened the meeting with a prayer. Mr. Haley apologized for not having called a meeting of the Committee for several months. He explained that there were no changes of KMR policy which would affect the Marshallese Community during past months and he maintained an open door policy for all Marshallese to discuss any problems that arise. He added that meetings of the Committee were extremely valuable and future meetings should be held at least monthly. It was agreed that the Committee would meet the first Tuesday of each month and more often if necessary.

3. Rev Pijja Matauto introduced complaints of mistreatment of Marshallese by security guards. He said many Marshallese with passes to KMR have been detained at the pier and returned to Ebeye. He was a victim of such treatment. He asked about children coming to Kwajalein. He stressed that some security guards have a knack for mistreatment in their general attitude and voice.

4. Mr. Haley said he would investigate the complaints but would need more information such as who is doing the mistreating, what type of mistreatment, where, and other information which would facilitate investigation. He said he believed that KMR regulations precluded children from coming to Kwajalein unless for a specific reason. Children are difficult to control, can easily become accident victims in Kwajalein traffic, and require attention of parents at all times. Working fathers and mothers, and people coming to Kwajalein on business would have difficulty monitoring the activities of children.

5. Mrs. Cataldo suggested that special training be given to security personnel who run the guard post at the pier to prevent them from mistreating the Marshallese people.

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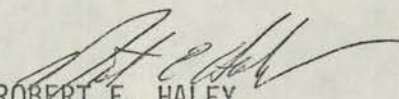
6. Iroij Lejolan Kabua complained about his people having to use water taxis and he and Rev Matauto pursued the subject of more free government transportation between Kwajalein and Ebeye. Mr. Haley said the government transportation between Ebeye and Kwajalein was for the Kwajalein work force, not visitors. It is adequate for transporting workers. In the past, when government transportation was not limited to workers, the visitors would get on the boats first and the workers could not get to or from work. He suggested that at times the Marshallese people should look at what is being done for them instead of what is not being done for them. He said that in his lifetime no employer has ever provided him free transportation to and from work. Rev Matauto said he missed the 1430 boat and had to wait until 1730 for the next KMR boat. Also, he said some workers get off at 1600 and have to wait until 1730 to get to Ebeye. He asked if the 1730 boat could be dispatched to Ebeye at an earlier time. Mr. Haley will investigate.
7. Rev Matauto asked why the microphone on the Tarlang had been disconnected to preclude the Marshallese from conducting their prayer services. Mr. Haley said it was only disconnected for two days and that was about a month ago. He suggested that Rev Matauto ride the boat to verify that the microphone was in service. He added that use of the Tarlang public address system for religious services is, in his opinion, a questionable practice. He was aware that some workers preferred to do other things. However, it appears that the majority of workers endorse the prayer service and it is being conducted on the Tarlang. Rev Matauto was advised that this is a sensitive matter. Individual rights are involved including the rights of people in a captive audience who may not want to hear a church service.
8. Mrs. Cataldo and Mr. Stege advised that perhaps an arrangement could be made to separate the group that wants the prayer service from those who want to do other things.
9. Rev Matauto asked if KMR could send a boat to Ebadon to pick up the people there who want to visit Ebeye during the Christmas holidays. Mr. Haley advised that this same request was presented last year and refused because of the cost of the operation, approximately \$3000.
10. Iroij Lejolan said he would like to expedite plans for removing all the junk vehicles and substandard housing from Ebeye. He also wants to expedite plans for creating a population center on Ebadon.
11. Magistrate Bolkeim said he needed a public address system to quickly notify people on Ebeye of important community matters. He also needs uniforms for his police force. He asked about more trips to corridor islands for Mid-Atoll Corridor people and housing for them. Mr. Haley said he will follow up on these items. He also informed the group that approximately 60 Mid-Corridor people from Ebeye were returning to three islands in the corridor on 13 Oct 78.

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All arrangements have been made but he had no tents or housing for them and no commitment to provide them. Food, water cans, and sanitation kits from Handclasp supplies would be made available but not because the Army has any responsibility for providing these supplies. We do it for humanitarian reasons. The TTPI is responsible for the welfare of Marshallese people. The question was asked, who is responsible for providing housing and provisions for these trips. Mr. Stege thought this might be an appropriate matter for the Marshall's Political Status Commission to include in their negotiations. He knew of no TTPI resources which could be used for this purpose.

12. The meeting adjourned at 1230.


ROBERT E. HALEY
KMR Trust Territory Liaison Officer

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Attendees