



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

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

SSC-RKE-0

10 February 1971

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Kwajalein Atoll Inter-Island Community
Relations Committee Meeting of 8 February 1971

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1. The meeting of the Kwajalein Atoll Inter-Island Community Relations Committee was held on Kwajalein at 1000 hours, 8 February 1971. Committee members present were:

Mr. Jalle Bolkeim, Chief Magistrate, Kwajalein Atoll
Mr. Jobel Enos, Kwajalein-Micronesian Employees' Rep
Mr. Matan Lakjohn, Assistant DISTAD Rep, Ebeye
Mrs. Alice Buck, Community Rep, Kwajalein
Reverend J. Samson, Protestant Missionary, Ebeye
Mr. W. M. Ownbey, TT DISTAD Rep, Kwajalein & Ebeye
Mr. R. E. Haley, KMR TT LNO

Members not present:

Mrs. Trannie Quinn, Community Rep, Kwajalein ← THIS COPY FOR
Iroi Lejolan Kabua

2. Mr. Haley opened the meeting by announcing that the Tarlang would be in drydock starting 24 February 1971 and would remain out of action for at least 30 days. He said this would prove to be a period of intense cooperation between the Ebeye and Kwajalein communities. Kwajalein intends to provide all possible transportation service for Ebeye workers and residents who have official business on Kwajalein. However, he emphasized that the Ebeye Municipal Council must do everything possible to reduce transportation requirements between Ebeye and Kwajalein to an absolute minimum. This would mean strict enforcement of regulations prohibiting people from traveling to Kwajalein unless they are employed on Kwajalein or have emergency reasons. Ebeye members of the committee vouched they would reduce traffic to an absolute minimum. Mr. Ownbey said that, if necessary, he would press the Trust Territory LCM into service to assist, and asked that Mr. Bolkeim use the Mid-Atoll Corridor boat to transport Ebeye workers to and from Kwajalein when necessary. Mr. Bolkeim agreed that he could do this. Both Mr. Ownbey

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and Mr. Bolkeim stipulated that a small fee of 50 cents per person would be charged commuters for operation and maintenance of these vessels.

3. Mr. Haley said the Mid-Atoll Corridor Range would be open during the period 14 thru 29 March 1971. He qualified this statement by saying these dates could change but he anticipated a period of approximately two weeks would be available for return trips to Mid-Atoll Corridor islands in March 1971.

4. Mrs. Buck submitted an article she had prepared for HourGlass publication on dress and etiquette to be observed by KMR visitors to Ebeye. The committee concurred that this article should be published periodically in the HourGlass.

5. Reverend Jude Samson advised committee members that there were many people on Ebeye who had recently received checks from payment made under the terms of the new Mid-Atoll Corridor Agreement of December 18, 1970. People have been going from store to store on Ebeye in an attempt to cash these checks. However, local Ebeye merchants do not reserve sufficient funds for this purpose. This prompted Mrs. Buck to re-inquire into the possibility of sending a Bank of Hawaii representative to Ebeye at least during periods of extreme banking interest. Mr. Ownbey said he had talked to Mr. Wong, the Manager of the Kwajalein Branch of the Bank of Hawaii, in an attempt to provide this type of service. Mr. Wong checked his records on banking activities for Ebeye residents and did not believe the volume of business would warrant a bank representative traveling to Ebeye for banking purposes. Mr. Ownbey was asked to contact Mr. Wong again on this subject in an attempt to at least provide a representative at the time Mid-Atoll Corridor payments are made to Ebeye residents. Mr. Ownbey will do this.

6. Mrs. Buck asked what progress had been made toward enrolling Ebeye youth in the two available Trust Territory vocational schools. Mr. Ownbey said he had solicited and received information from these schools on curriculum, application procedures, etc. He had disseminated this information on Ebeye, but has not yet received any applications. Mrs. Buck asked if it would be possible to publicize this information in the local newspaper. Mr. Ownbey answered affirmatively and further suggested that it be publicized on the Marshallese radio program. On this subject the committee agreed it would be desirable to have an additional Marshallese radio program each week. Mr. Haley said he would investigate this possibility, adding that additional radio time could be profitably used to educate Ebeye people on benefits of opening savings or checking accounts with the Bank of Hawaii.

SSC-RKE-0

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7. Mr. Ownbey announced that he had contacted a garment manufacturing concern in Honolulu and was making arrangements for this company to send Ebeye pre-cut materials for fabrication into finished dresses and shirts. He believed this would be a profitable endeavor for many of the ladies on Ebeye, and advised that this work could best be accomplished on a piecework basis.

8. Mr. Ownbey also speculated that in the near future there would be a shortage of labor on Ebeye. He was referring to the fact that a hospital, a sewage plant, an apartment building for government employees, and a public safety building were all programmed for construction on Ebeye. This would mean that there should be no unemployment on Ebeye because most of the labor for these projects would be recruited from jobless persons on Ebeye. He added that there was a small hard core of unemployed on Ebeye because some people simply could not hold jobs for personal reasons.

9. Mrs. Buck asked what progress was being made on the development of Carlson Island. Mr. Ownbey answered that a group of Trust Territory specialists had spent four or five hours on Carlson this past week laying out areas for housing, a pig farm, and a chicken farm. He said it was now up to the people to reconcile their differences with respect to land matters. The problem is getting agreement among the land owners of six wetoos (lots) as to which wetoos would be used for which purposes. He added that Carlson was an extremely good island for agriculture and during Japanese times a truck farm operation was established on Carlson. Mr. Ownbey mentioned that there are 50 to 60 people on Ebeye with land rights on Carlson who are employed full time with Global Associates on Kwajalein. He believed these people would want to move to Carlson and create the problem of transporting them from Carlson to Kwajalein to work. For these people to remain employed at KMR, a small boat shuttle would have to be established between Carlson and Ebeye. On this subject Mr. Ownbey asked if passes to Kwajalein could be issued at Ennylabegan for Marshallese who must travel to KMR occasionally. At present they must travel to Kwajalein, then back to Ebeye to get their passes, then back to Kwajalein. Mr. Haley will confer with Security on this.

10. Mr. Ownbey asked if there was an Ennubirr Island representative at these meetings. Mr. Bolkeim answered that he represented the Ennubirr people; however, Mr. Ownbey suggested that a committee membership be established for an Ennubirr representative.

11. Mr. Bolkeim inquired if Arbwa and Ebadon were in the missile hazard area. Mr. Haley answered that the hazard area extends for 200 miles

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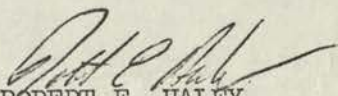
around Kwajalein. However, neither Ebadon nor Arbwa are in the Mid-Atoll Corridor, and therefore there should be no problem relative to surface transportation between these islands and Roi-Namur. Mr. Bolkeim answered he had been informed that boats could not move between these islands because they were in a hazard area. Mr. Haley said he would investigate this and provide a more specific answer for Mr. Bolkeim.

12. Mr. Bolkeim asked if Kwajalein could assist in providing Ebeye with propane gas. Mr. Ownbey answered that propane gas could be made available through Mobil Oil facilities on Ebeye. He asked that Mr. Bolkeim let him know how much propane gas is required on a weekly or monthly basis and he would make necessary arrangements with Mobil Oil to insure sufficient propane gas availability on Ebeye. In the interim it was requested that KMR assist on a one-time emergency basis.

13. Reverend Jude Samson asked if the magnetic road machine used on Kwajalein to pick up pieces of metal could be borrowed from time to time for use on Ebeye. It was asked who would finance this request. Reverend Samson and Mr. Ownbey will determine who will pay for the use of this machine and advise the committee if the use of the machine is financially feasible on Ebeye.

14. The meeting adjourned at 1140 hours.

15. At 1300 hours, Iroi Lejolan Kabua came by to say he regretted not being able to attend the morning meeting but was busy preparing to sail for Namu. He added that Mid-Atoll Corridor payments had been distributed to the people and there were no problems in this matter.


ROBERT E. HALEY
Trust Territory Liaison Officer

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