

UNITED NATIONS  
SECURITY  
COUNCIL



Distr.  
GENERAL

S/2978  
3 April 1953

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 2 APRIL 1953 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES  
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL RELATING TO THE  
TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Excellency:

On instructions from my Government, I have the honor, through you, to notify the Security Council that, effective April 2, 1953, Bikini Atoll in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, is closed for security reasons pursuant to the provisions of the Trusteeship Agreement in order that the United States Government, acting through its Atomic Energy Commission, may conduct necessary atomic experiments. The closed area consists of the entire Bikini Atoll, located at approximately 165° 22' east longitude and 11° 36' north latitude, and the territorial waters adjacent thereto.

Entry into the closed area shall be in accordance with such regulations as the United States Government may prescribe.

The Security Council is further notified that periodic visits provided for in Article 87 (c) of the Charter of the United Nations are suspended in the closed area until further notice, as permitted by Article 13 of the Trusteeship Agreement. With this exception, the provisions of Article 87 of the Charter will continue to apply. With respect to Article 88 of the Charter the United States Government will, of course, report to the United Nations on the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the inhabitants of the Trust Territory. In this connection it should be pointed out, however, that the some 170 former inhabitants of Bikini were evacuated from the atoll in 1946 prior to the military effects tests conducted at that time. After study of suitable alternative sites and consultations with the people, they were

53-09287

relocated on the island of Kili in the southern Marshall Islands. The United States will continue, as it has in the past, to provide information concerning their welfare to the United Nations.

There is attached hereto, for the information of the Security Council, a copy of a press release on this subject issued on April 2, 1953 by the Atomic Energy Commission of the United States.

It is requested that copies of this letter, together with its enclosure, be circulated to members of the Security Council.

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr.  
United States Permanent  
Representative to the Security Council

UNITED STATES  
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION  
Washington 25, D.C.

FOR RELEASE IN MORNING NEWSPAPERS  
THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 1953

BIKINI ATOLL ADDED TO ATOMIC  
PROVING GROUND IN PACIFIC

Washington, April 2 -- To accommodate the rapidly expanding program of developing and testing new and improved nuclear weapons the United States Atomic Energy Commission is enlarging the Pacific Proving Ground in the Marshall Islands to include Bikini as well as Eniwetok Atoll. Bikini is 180 miles to the eastward of Eniwetok. Construction of technical facilities there will begin shortly.

Use of Bikini is necessary because of the limited size of Eniwetok, where tests were conducted last November. Eniwetok will be the headquarters and main operating base for the Proving Ground. Bikini and Eniwetok will remain under the civil jurisdiction of the Department of Interior. AEC uses the area under agreement with Interior.

Bikini was last used in 1946 for testing military effects of conventional atomic bombs. At that time its inhabitants were evacuated from the Atoll. After study of suitable alternative sites and consultations with the people, they were relocated on the island of Kili in the southern Marshall Islands. Since the 1946 tests, the Nevada Proving Ground of the Atomic Energy Commission has been established and is continuing in use for frequent tests, one series of which is now underway.

The United Nations is being notified by the Department of State that Bikini Atoll and its territorial waters have been declared closed for security reasons in accordance with the provisions of the Trusteeship Agreement between the United States and the Security Council of the United Nations.

-----