

**TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC  
ISLANDS—APPROPRIATIONS**

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**HEARING**  
BEFORE THE  
**COMMITTEE ON**  
**ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES**  
**UNITED STATES SENATE**  
NINETY-FIFTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

ON

**H.R. 6550**

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE CERTAIN APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE  
TERRITORIES OF THE UNITED STATES, TO AMEND CERTAIN  
ACTS RELATING THERETO, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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STATEMENT OF GLENN H. ALCALAY, FORMER PEACE CORPS  
VOLUNTEER, TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Mr. ALCALAY. I am a Peace Corps volunteer who was on ~~Enewetak~~ <sup>Utirik</sup> Atoll. I have submitted a written statement I wish included in the testimony. I would just care to say I am honored to be here on behalf of these people and I ask the committee be as sympathetic as possible when considering compensation and continued medical care for these people in the context of human rights. President Carter, and his administration, are very interested in human rights.

It should be pointed out these people's human rights have been violated as a byproduct of negligence on the part of this Government. I think these people are continuing to suffer as a part of this negligence. I had a conversation with one of the doctors yesterday. He gave the estimate—it is not clear how long these people are going to suffer.

Senator METZENBAUM. Would you identify yourself.

Mr. ALCALAY. Glenn Alcalay, a former Peace Corps volunteer.

Senator METZENBAUM. Are you still on the island?

Mr. ALCALAY. No; I just returned from the Marshall Islands.

Senator METZENBAUM. We appreciate your taking the time and trouble in order to be a Peace Corps volunteer, but for the sentiments expressed and I am sure those sentiments are shared by members of this committee as well as by the administration. Unfortunately, money does not always provide answers to some of the problems, but we will try to do the best we can under the circumstances.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Alcalay follows:]

STATEMENT OF GLENN H. ALCALAY, PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER, TRUST TERRITORY  
OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

I, Glenn H. Alcalay, was a Peace Corps volunteer assigned to the Marshall Islands from the period of March 2, 1975 to May 2, 1977. I served on Utirik Atoll for two years as a cooperative advisor (vis-a-vis the Department of Agriculture in the Marshalls district), and also as a TESL (teaching English as a second language) teacher.

In the following pages I have summarized some of the major areas which I feel to be of importance in relation to the Utirik people and their ongoing problems as a consequence of having been irradiated in the incident of March 1, 1954.

I. *Psychological effects of radiation on Utirikese*

(a) The people of Utirik generally believe that they are living in a still-radioactive, environment, despite the individual physicians' and ERDA/Brookhaven's claims to the contrary. This lack of trust stems from the doctors telling the people that "everything is alright now" in juxtaposition with an increased number of radiation-related diseases in recent years.

(b) There is a family living in Utirik (Juda family) who was not residing on Utirik Atoll at the time of the incident on March 1, 1954. This family had been living on adjacent Ailuk Atoll, but did however accompany the rest of the returning Utirikese back to their atoll following their three-month forced evacuation to Kawajalein Atoll after the incident.

Since their return to Utirik in 1954, three people in this family—Juda, Mauno, and Klobedra—have contracted thyroid tumors that required surgical removal. After having spent 2 years talking with this family on Utirik Atoll, I am convinced that this family sincerely believes their maladies to be a direct result of living on Utirik Atoll, especially since they returned with the Utirikese so soon after the incident to an environment that still contained "poison" (radiation).



The way the Senate Bill 1192 is presently written, these people would not receive compensation because of their not having lived on Utirik Island on March 1, 1954.

(c) There is a woman named Arta (Rison) who was exposed to the radiation in 1954. She expressed her fears to me that since she received "poison" (radiation), and since her children have all suckled from her breast, that now her children will have received "poison" in their bodies also, despite the fact that they didn't receive direct exposure to the radiation.

(d) During the March 1977 ERDA/Brookhaven survey, four new thyroid nodules were found in the nonexposed Utirik group. Despite flat denials by the examining physicians that these are a result of lingering radiation in Utirik, the people are convinced that these new cases are also a result of the radiation on Utirik. Whether these four new cases are indeed related to lingering radioactivity on Utirik or are merely coincidental disorders unrelated to radiation, the Utirik people think that these new cases are a result of the lingering radiation on their island.

(e) Many women I spoke with during my 2 years on Utirik expressed fears of either increased infertility or an increase in the number of stillbirths and miscarriages. Several women also expressed their fear of giving birth again to "grapes", as so many of them had done immediately following the incident in 1954, despite the fact that ERDA's physicians have continually told them not to worry about these problems.

## II. Environmental effects of radiation on Utirik

(a) The people of Utirik are convinced that there are lasting effects of the radiation. The arrowroot ("mokmok") stalks of Utirik are much shorter than before, and the people feel that this is a result of the radiation. I had a recent talk with the director of agriculture for the Marshall Islands District (Liki), and although he personally felt there to be no relationship between the damaged arrowroot on Utirik and the radiation, he did relate an interesting conversation he had had with Dr. Conard on Bikini Atoll in 1954 following the incident. Liki tells me that Dr. Conard asked that three things be placed on the "prohibited list" following the incident in 1954: 1) A certain species of reef fish, 2) the coconut crab (considered a delicacy by the Marshallese), and 3) arrowroot. It is interesting that arrowroot—one of the prohibited items according to Dr. Conard—is believed to be presently damaged as a result of the radiation in the minds of the Utirik people.

(b) There are a few mutant strains of breadfruit and coconut trees on Utirik Island, and although these may indeed be random mutation and unrelated to the radiation, the people of Utirik are convinced that these mutations are directly related to the radiation.

(c) The important point here is that the people of Utirik sincerely believe that these effects are a result of the radiation, whether or not these effects are indeed the result of the radiation.

## III. Physiological effects of radiation on Uirikese

(a) It is medically accepted that there are serious physiological ill-effects in the Utirik people, however, there is still some question about the character and extent of these effects. E.g., thyroid tumors are continuing to manifest after 23 years. I think it is instructive to look at Dr. Conard's own words in his 20-year medical report where he states on page 75 " \* \* \* That the thyroid effects may not yet be manifest." This should be kept in mind when considering the question of compensation and continued medical treatment for these people. It is rather curious that a cut-off date of 1987 for compensation was included in the Senate bill, and the "full settlement" clause included in the House bill, in light of an indefinite prognosis and increased number of radiation-related diseases.

(b) Two people from Utirik were air-evacuated after the March 1977 medical survey revealed suspected cases of skin cancer. I would like to know if these two people did indeed manifest skin cancer as suspected. My curiosity stems from the mention by Dr. Conard on page seventy-three of his twenty year medical report that there may be incidence of late-occurring skin cancer as a result of the radiation.

(c) Life shortening is a  
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continuing today.

(d) Winton Kel, the son  
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Senator METZENBAUM  
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Mr. BALOS. Mr. Chair  
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Senator METZENBAUM  
commitment in 5 minute

Mr. BALOS. I would li  
Senator METZENBAUM  
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Mrs. VAN CLEVE. It is  
Senator METZENBAUM  
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Mrs. VAN CLEVE. We  
[Subsequent to the  
record:]

### Activity

#### Direct:

High Commissioner's Office.....  
Judiciary.....  
Federal Comptroller.....

#### Grants:

Health services.....  
Education.....  
Public affairs.....  
Resources and development.....  
Protection to persons and property.....  
Administration.....  
Transportation and communication.....  
Public works.....  
Development technical assistance.....

Total.....



(c) Life shortening is a manifestation of a dysfunctioning thyroid gland. There were some cases of stunted growth on Rongelap Atoll following the incident of March 1, 1954, and I am wondering if either of these two problems are continuing today.

(d) Winton Kel, the son of two Utirik exposed persons who was born three years after the incident has recently been operated on for a malignant thyroid tumor. The burden of proof appears to lie with the doctors that Winton's malignancy was unrelated to genetic inheritance.

Senator METZENBAUM. Congressman Balos, I am about to wind up this hearing.

Mr. BALOS. Mr. Chairman, I would like to point out we have a general statement that was submitted earlier, but because of certain developments we would like to revise it for the record at a later date on the bill before us, section 2 under Senate bill 1192, the section be amended to say each person be awarded the maximum of \$750,000. We feel this would be a comparable sum awarded to a citizen within the United States.

Another section be amended to award for radiation—

Senator METZENBAUM. I am sorry, Congressman, I have another commitment in 5 minutes. I must be there.

Mr. BALOS. I would like to submit it for the record.

Senator METZENBAUM. We certainly appreciate your doing so. We appreciate the presence of all who have come long distances to be with us here this morning.

Is the Department committed to full implementation of the CIP program in which the Congress of Micronesia has based its request?

Mrs. VAN CLEVE. It is my understanding it is.

Senator METZENBAUM. Will you provide the committee with a breakdown of the expenditures for the trust territories I previously suggested?

Mrs. VAN CLEVE. We certainly will.

[Subsequent to the hearing, the following was received for the record:]

TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

ESTIMATED OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES

[In thousands of dollars]

Activity	Fiscal year	
	1977	1978
Direct:		
High Commissioner's Office.....	508	506
Judiciary.....	862	826
Federal Comptroller.....	310	446
Grants:		
Health services.....	7,946	7,735
Education.....	12,562	12,130
Public affairs.....	1,717	2,131
Resources and development.....	5,759	5,510
Protection to persons and property.....	2,632	2,600
Administration.....	6,284	5,818
Transportation and communication.....	3,845	4,863
Public works.....	9,084	8,946
Development technical assistance.....	380	500
Total.....	51,889	52,011




1 (90 Stat. 263) have been met and approved as required  
2 in section 1003(b) thereof, there is hereby authorized to  
3 be appropriated \$13,515,000 for the government of the  
4 Northern Mariana Islands. When such conditions are met,  
5 the appropriations authorized in article VII, section 704,  
6 of said covenant shall become effective.

7 ~~SEC. 103.~~ In addition to amounts heretofore authorized,  
8 there are hereby authorized to be appropriated such amounts  
9 as may be necessary to fully satisfy all adjudicated claims  
10 and final awards made by the Micronesian Claims Com-  
11 mission for payment of 50 per centum of each award made  
12 under title I, and in full payment of the awards made under  
13 title II of the Micronesian Claims Act of 1974 (85 Stat.  
14 96).

15 ~~SEC. 104.~~ 103. For the rehabilitation and resettlement  
16 of Enewetak Atoll in the Trust Territory of the Pacific  
17 Islands there is hereby authorized to be appropriated \$12,-  
18 400,000 (July 1976 prices) plus or minus such amounts,  
19 if any, as may be justified by reason of ordinary fluctuations  
20 in construction costs as indicated by engineering cost indexes  
21 applicable to the types of construction involved.

22 ~~SEC. 105.~~ 104. (a) In addition to appropriations author-  
23 ized to compensate inhabitants of Rongelap Atoll and Utirik  
24 Atoll in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands for radia-  
25 tion exposure sustained by them as a result of a thermo-



1 nuclear detonation at Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands  
2 on March 1, 1954, pursuant to the Act of August 22, 1964  
3 (78 Stat. 598), effective October 1, 1977, there are author-  
4 ized to be appropriated such amounts as may be necessary  
5 to carry out the provisions of this section and the Secretary  
6 of the Interior (hereafter in this section referred to as the  
7 "Secretary") is authorized and directed to make the pay-  
8 ments as hereafter provided in this paragraph to individuals,  
9 or to their heirs or legatees, as the case may be, who were  
10 on March 1, 1954, residents on Rongelap Atoll or Utirik  
11 Atoll in the Marshall Islands.

12 (1) The Secretary shall pay \$25,000 to each such  
13 individual from whom the thyroid gland or a neuro-  
14 fibroma in the neck was surgically removed, or who has  
15 developed thyroid atrophy resulting in myxedema, or  
16 or who has developed hypothyroidism, or who develops a  
17 radiation-related malignancy, such as leukemia,

18 (2) The Secretary shall pay \$1,000 to each indi-  
19 vidual who, on such date, was a resident on Utirik Atoll,  
20 and

21 (3) Where circumstances warrant, as he shall de-  
22 termine, the Secretary shall pay an amount not in excess  
23 of \$25,000 as he determines to be appropriate com-  
24 passionate compensation to each such individual who  
25 has suffered any physical injury or harm from a radia-



1 tion-related cause but who is not an individual described  
2 in paragraph ~~(1)~~ or ~~(2)~~ (1).

3 (4) In addition to the payments provided in para-  
4 graphs (1), (2), and (3) of this subsection, the Sec-  
5 retary shall provide by appropriate means adequate  
6 medical care and treatment for any person who has a  
7 continuing need for the care and treatment of any  
8 radiation injury or illness directly related to the thermo-  
9 nuclear detonation referred to in paragraph (a) of this  
10 *section. The costs of such medical care and treatment*  
11 *shall be assumed by the Administrator of the Energy*  
12 *Research and Development Administration.*

13 (5) Not later than December 31, 1980, the Secre-  
14 tary shall report to the appropriate committees of the  
15 United States Congress for their consideration what,  
16 if any, additional compassionate compensation may be  
17 justified for those individuals continuing to suffer from  
18 injuries or illnesses directly related to radiation result-  
19 ing from the thermonuclear detonation referred to in  
20 paragraph (a) of this section.

21 In the case of the demise of any individual entitled to receive  
22 payment under this section who expires before receiving  
23 such payment, the Secretary shall pay the amount which  
24 that individual would have been entitled to receive under  
25 this section to the heirs or legatees of such individual, in