



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE
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REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS
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September 6, 1999

Paul J. Seligman, M.D., M.P.H.
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health Studies
Department of Energy
19901 Germantown Road
Germantown, Maryland 20874-1290

Dear Dr. Seligman:

First, I would like to thank you for your letter of July 17, 1999. It is gratifying to know that the Department of Energy (DOE) shares the Republic of the Marshall Islands commitment to convening the RMI-DOE annual meeting. The proposed dates of October 18 and 19 are most acceptable to the RMI and we look forward to meeting in Honolulu at that time.

The RMI is as concerned as the DOE that our discussions proceed in a productive manner. With regard to the structure of our meeting, however, the RMI Government strongly views a transition from the established structure of plenary meetings to individual meetings between the DOE and our local governments to be against stated RMI policy. The RMI has committed itself to working with the DOE and the other U.S. agencies on a government-to-government basis and we do not wish to waver in that commitment now. Moreover, it is the RMI's view that in order to achieve a common understanding and mutually agreed upon goals through these meetings, all parties must be present. Only in this way can the atoll communities, the U.S. and the RMI government work collectively to ensure that the DOE's programs in the RMI operate as effectively as possible.

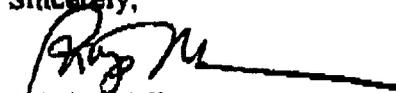
I would suggest that setting a clear listing of agenda items for the meeting would be the most effective way to ensure that our October discussions are productive. As you know, the RMI Government is anxious to address the issue of radiation standards as well as worker safety standards with the DOE. The atoll communities will of course have their own issues of concern that the RMI Government would include in the agenda after meeting with their local representatives.

While I would have greatly enjoyed meeting with you prior to October to discuss the agenda and other matters, it is not yet clear whether I will be traveling to Washington

at the end of this month. However, if you so wish, our representatives at the Embassy in Washington will be happy to meet with you on my behalf as always.

I look forward to continuing in the spirit of cooperation and transparency that has been evident in past meetings when we convene our annual meeting in October. If you have any further concerns or suggestions regarding the meeting, please do not hesitate to share these with me. I am anxious to move ahead in the positive and productive manner that has characterized our working relationship in recent years.

Sincerely,



Phillip Muller
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Cc: Ambassador Banny deBrum,
RMI Embassy, Washington, D.C.