

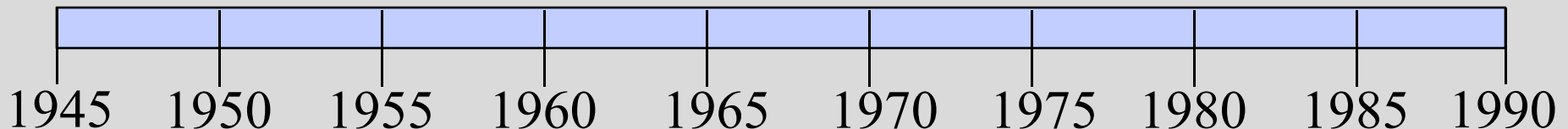


Timeline of Marshallese Relocations

What Happened to Whom, When, and Possibly
Why

1945 to 1990

Collected from Day of Two Suns by Jane Dibblin and Marshall Islands
Chronology at <http://worf.eh.doe.gov/ihp/chron/> as well as quotes
from Day of Two Suns and For the Good of Mankind, by Jack
Niedenthal, 2001.

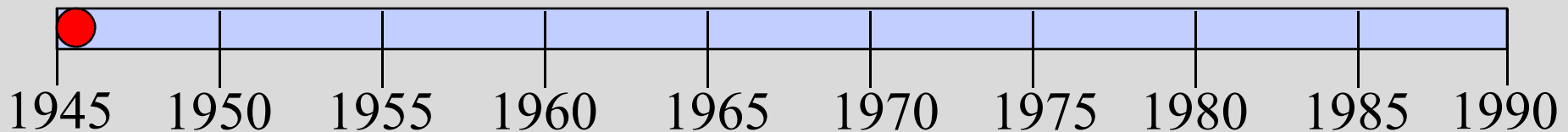




1946



- ❖ The military governor of the Marshall Islands obtains the consent of a Bikini chief to relocate his people so that Bikini can be used for nuclear weapon tests.
 - *"For the good of mankind and to end all world wars" - Commodore Ben Wyatt 1946.*

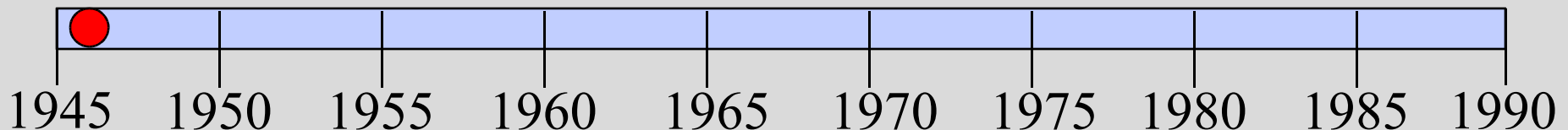




1946



- **March 07, 1946:** The U.S. Navy evacuates Bikini Atoll inhabitants to Rongerik Atoll.
- **May:** Residents of Enewetak are moved to Meck Island in Kwajalein Atoll, and the Rongelap and Wotho people are evacuated to Lae Atoll for the duration of the Bikini tests.

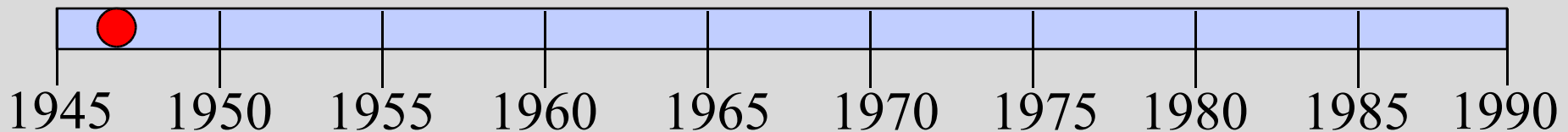




1947



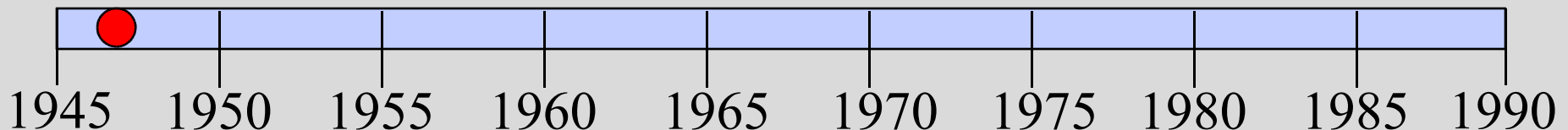
- ◆ **August 1947:** An official investigating board recommends removal of the Bikini Islanders from Rongerik because of insufficient food and water.
 - Interview with Lore Kessibuki (Niedenthal, 2001):
“While on Rongerik there were of course many problems for us to deal with as leaders. But the crisis in particular that stands out in my mind, even today after the many years have gone by, is the illness that many of us came down with as starvation became prolonged and excruciatingly painful.”





1947

- ◆ President Truman signs a directive for the removal of Natives from Enewetak.
- ◆ **December:** The Navy moves 145 Enewetak inhabitants to Ujelang prior to U.S. testing nuclear weapons at Enewetak.
 - *“The Americans came and started to tell us about Ujelang atoll as yet another option... We liked this idea... and decided to go along...”*
 - *“Unfortunately... after they built the housing on Ujelang... the US government decided to move the people of Enewetak to Ujelang... as Enewetak would be used to test US nuclear weapons.”* (Niedenthal, 2001)

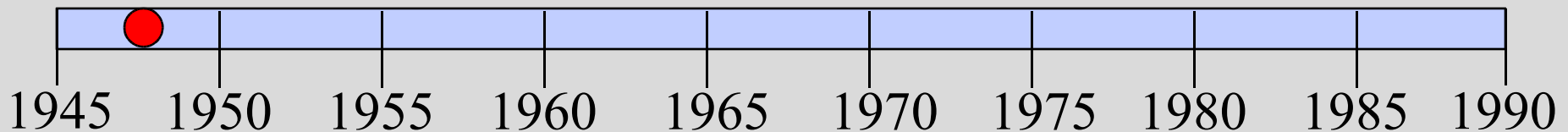




1948



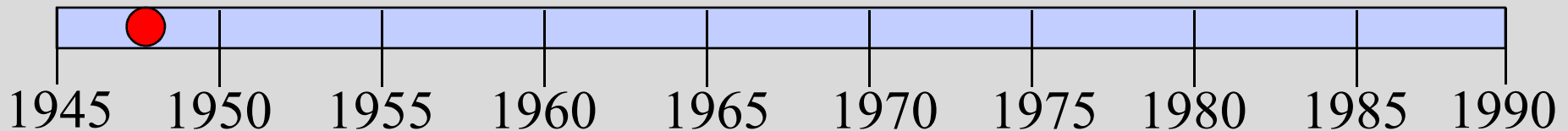
- ◆ **March 14 1948:** The Bikini evacuees are moved to a temporary camp on the Kwajalein Navy base.
 - Interview with Kilon Bauno (Niedenthal, 2001):
“We were frustrated by the small amount of space in which we were permitted to move around. We had to depend on the US military for everything. We were afraid of this alien environment and almost from the day we got there we began thinking about other places to live.”





1948

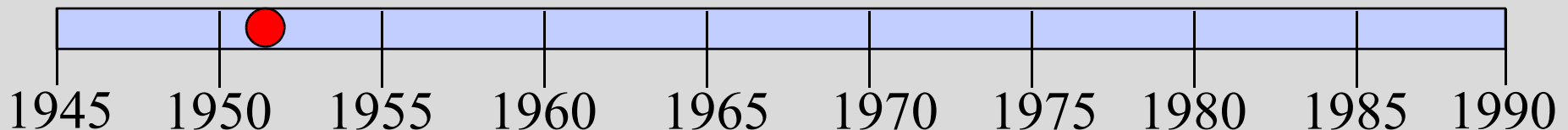
- ❖ **November 2, 1948:** After Bikini leaders select Kili Island for a settlement, the Navy moves the Bikini community of 184 people to Kili, which lacks a lagoon.





1952

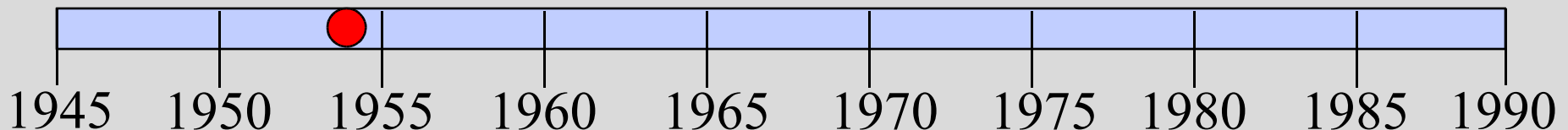
- ❖ The natives now living on Kili cannot be moved to Bikini because the atoll satisfies operational requirements for a possible supplementary site.
- ❖ The Navy transports 169 Ujelang people 100 miles farther away from Enewetak for a temporary relocation as a precaution before Operation Ivy nuclear tests





1954

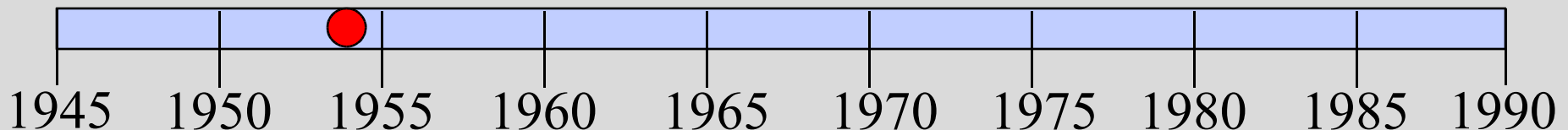
- ❖ **September 1954:** K. D. Nichols, the AEC general manager, informs the JCAE that the DOI and the Navy Department are currently taking steps to settle claims with inhabitants of Bikini and Enewetak atolls for the use of their lands.
- ❖ According to the AEC, fish there unsuitable for human consumption. The AEC also reports that radiological damage to these atolls that will require several years before humans can inhabit these lands.





1954

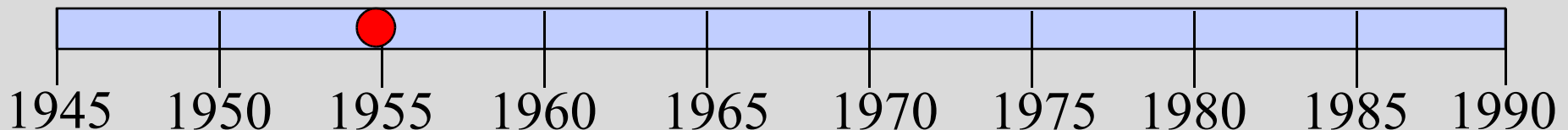
- ❖ **March:** The U.S. Navy DDE Philip evacuates 64 inhabitants from Rongelap and eighteen Rongelapese from Ailinginae and takes them to Kwajalein
- ❖ Utrik Islanders return home





1955

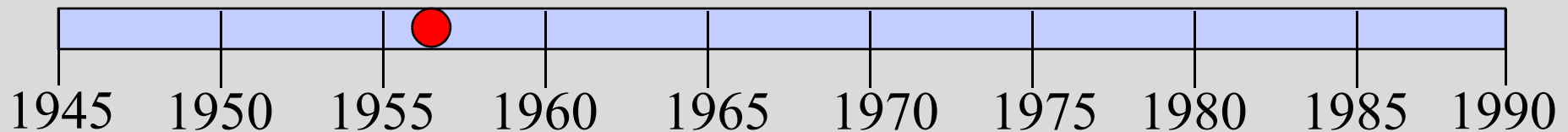
- ❖ Rongelap currently is judged unsuitable for habitation because of radioactivity in the atoll's northern islands "somewhat above" exposures recommended by the National Committee on Radiation Protection (NCRP)
- ❖ It is recommended to keep the Rongelapese on Ejit Island for at least another six months.





1957

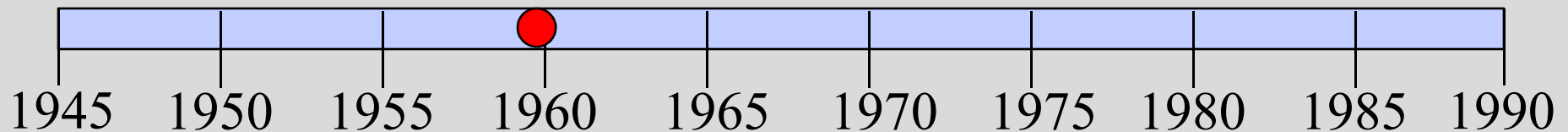
- ❖ The Rongelapese living on Eljit (island in Majuro) are returned to their home island after deliberations about the levels of radiation.





1960

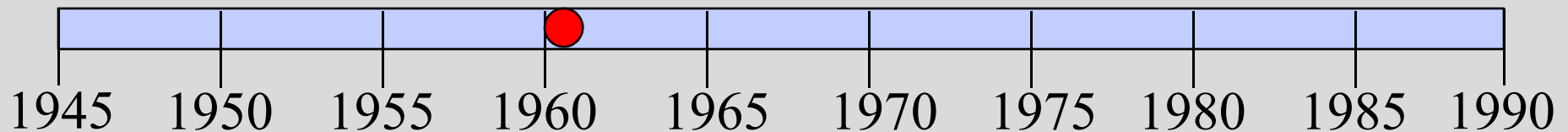
- ◆ Inhabitants of Roi Namur Island in Kwajalein are relocated to other islands also located in Kwajalein atoll (Ebeye and Ennuubirr)





1961

- ◆ Marshallese of Lib Island are moved to Ebeye in order for Lib to become an impact zone for ICBMs from California.

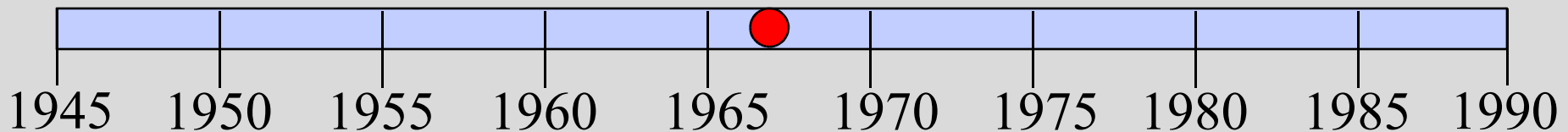




1967



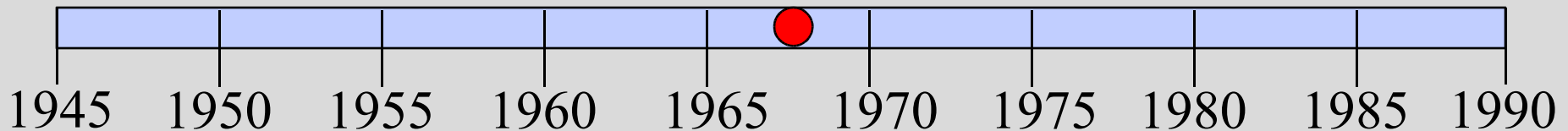
- ❖ **1967:** An anthropological study of the Bikinians and their leaders reveals that most are dissatisfied with Kili and wish to return to Bikini.
- ❖ Approximately 300 Enewetak people on Ujelang board a Trade Trust supply ship and demand to be moved to Majuro. They are angered by the lack of food and poor conditions on Ujelang.





1968

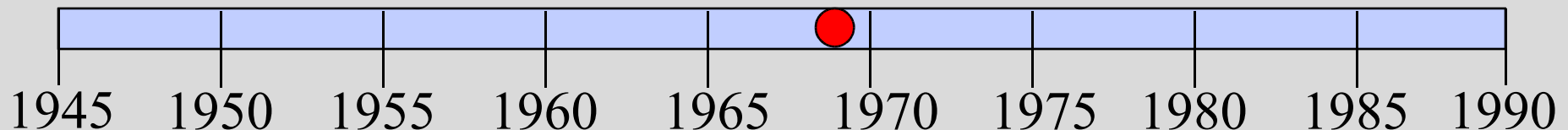
- ❖ **1968:** President Johnson publicly announces the decision to resettle the Bikinians. Tommy F. McCraw, a health physicist of the AEC/DOS tells the Bikinians that the food from the Bikini Atoll lagoon and Eneu Island is safe to eat but that villages will be built only on Bikini and Eneu Islands.
- ❖ King Juda passes away on Kili Island





1969

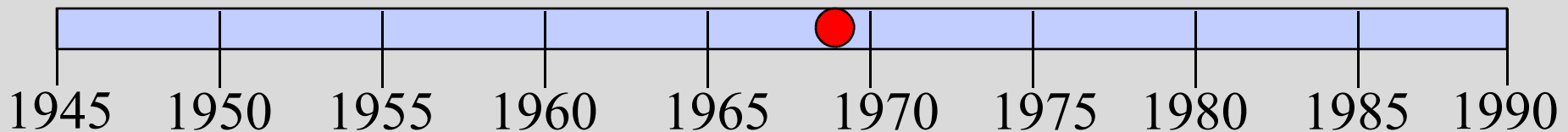
- ❖ A group of displaced people from Kwajalein atoll undertake the first of many ‘sail-ins’ back to their home islands in protest of living conditions on Ebeye.





1969

- ❖ **1969:** The DOD begins its cleanup of the islands of Bikini and Eneu and projects that completion will require six months.
- ❖ The AEC certifies that the Bikini cleanup project has been "satisfactorily completed." The Bikinians petition the Trade Trust high commissioner for their immediate return to Bikini and \$100,000 in further compensation for damages to their atoll and the discomforts they suffered from relocation.

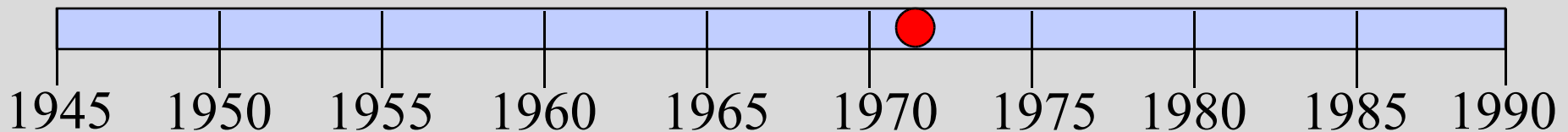




1972



- ◆ **1972:** Three Bikini families move back to Bikini with nearly 50 Marshallese construction and maintenance workers.

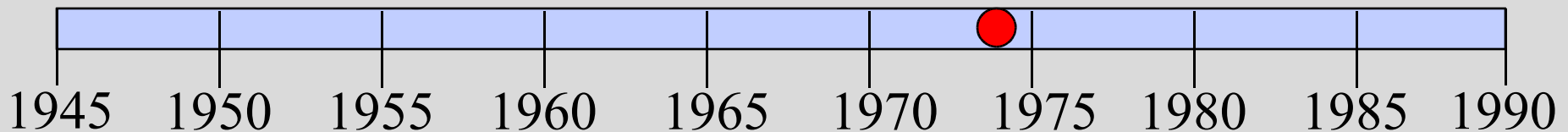




1974



- ❖ **1974:** A group of Bikini people refuse to return to the atoll on May 25, 1974 until they receive appropriate compensation for the past 25 years.

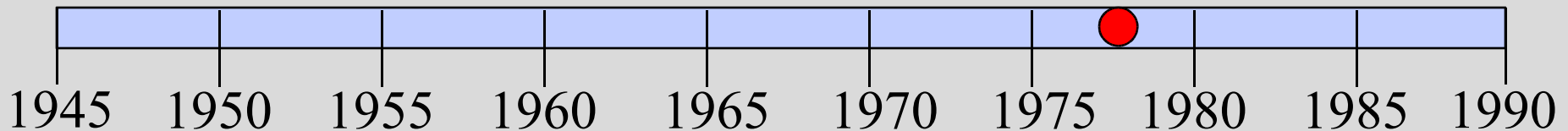




1978



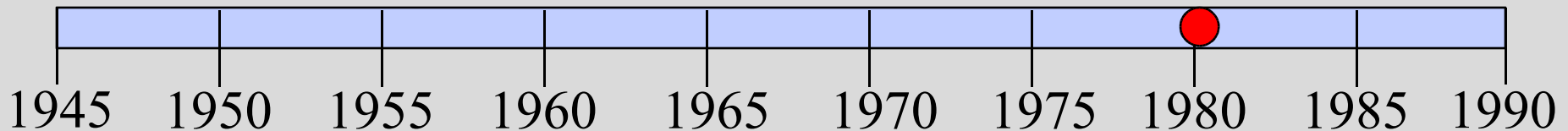
- ❖ **1978:** Relocation of Bikini residents to Kili Island begins. 139 people living there are evacuated.





1980

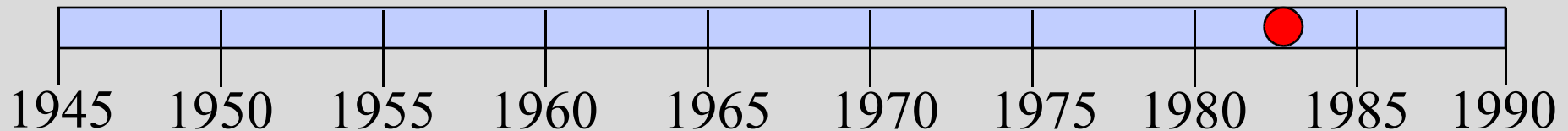
- ❖ **October 1980:** Enewetak people begin to return home to their atoll, Then...
- ❖ 100 islanders return to Ujelang because of lack of coconuts and other fresh fruits





1983

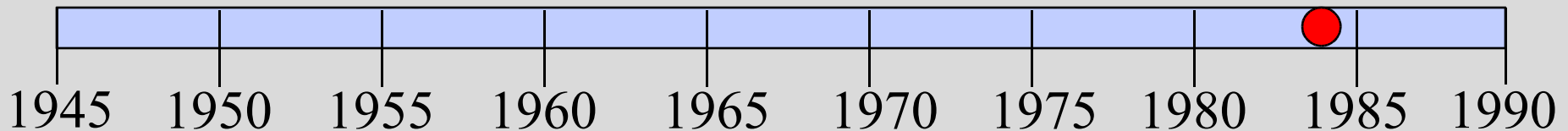
- ❖ The Marshall Islands Legislature passes a resolution supporting a relocation request to the U.S. Congress by the Rongelapese.





1984

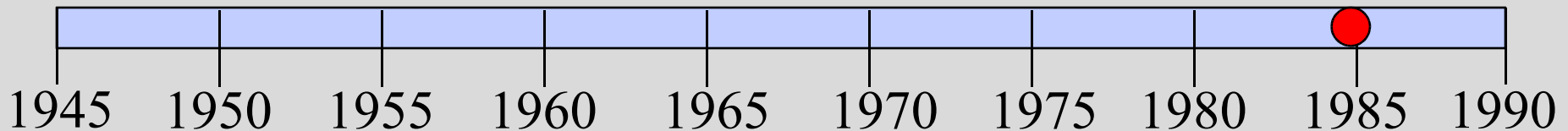
- ❖ **1984:** The people of Bikini file a class action suit against the executive branch of the U.S. government.
- ❖ The plaintiffs seek declaratory and equitable relief, the radiological cleanup of Bikini Atoll, the restoration of the atoll to its former condition, and resettlement of the Bikini people to their atoll.





1985

- ❖ Because of a fear of lingering contamination, 327 Rongelapese move from Rongelap to Mejjatto Island, in the Kwajalein Atoll.

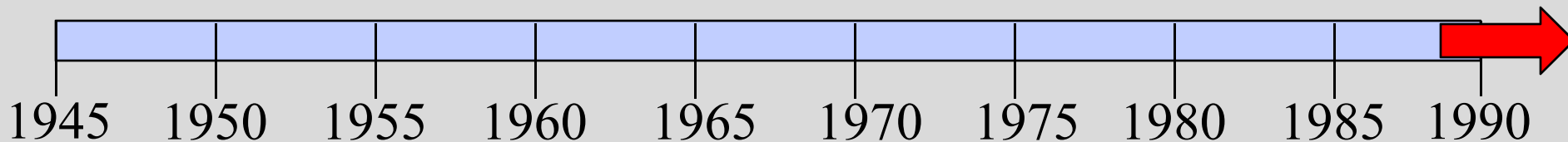




1990s



- ◆ **1990s:** Tourism push throughout the Islands and infrastructure development, continued cleanup.
 - **1996:** “The people of Bikini decided to open the atoll to divers to provide an economic base for the possible future resettlement of their homeland.” (Niedenthal, 2001)
- ◆ **1990s:** The United States Congress provided \$90 million to decontaminate Bikini and establish plans for its repopulation.





The 2000s

- ❖ **September 11, 2000:** Petition Presented To The Congress Of The United States Of America Regarding Changed Circumstances Arising From U.S. Nuclear Testing In The Marshall Islands
- ❖ **2003:** Compact Agreement Vote

