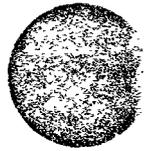


Experts Tell More About Effects of Tests Victims of H-Blast Are Near the Climax

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By United Press

TOKIO, March 31—American experts on nuclear radiation today said 23 Japanese fishermen exposed to "hot" ashes from the March 1 hydrogen explosion have entered the critical stage of their illness.

The experts said one fisherman was seriously ill with "leukopenia," a disease which causes bone marrow to fail in its production of white corpuscles.

Two others showed blood symptoms that indicated deep penetration by "gamma" rays.

TURNING POINT NEXT WEEK

If their white blood count begins rising after April 5, the experts said, the fishermen are not likely to suffer long-term ill effects.

All the 23 were on the Japanese fishing vessel Fukuryu Maru (the Fortunate Dragon), which was operating 80 miles from the U. S. testing grounds in the Marshall Islands at the time of the blast.

In order to ease the anxiety about the hydrogen weapons tests in the mid-Pacific, responsible American sources made the following revelations:

- There is no scientific basis for reports that the burned fishermen will be rendered sexually impotent or produce deformed children. "Tests at Hiroshima, Nagasaki and elsewhere have shown that genetic effects are negative," one source said.

- There is no difference in the direct or indirect types of radiation injuries caused by the latest hydrogen explosions from those caused by detonation of atomic bombs over Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Thus, it is not necessary to know the ingredients of a hydrogen bomb to treat its radiation victims.

- There is no danger of world-wide contamination resulting from atomic tests because the radioactive clouds are dispersed and diluted in the air and sea and the radioactive elements disappear. The "atomic drip" from bomb tests has added to the U. S. continental atmosphere only about 10 per cent of the radio-

activity caused naturally by radium alone, not counting other natural radioactive elements.

- Published findings of Japanese scientists about radioactive elements found in the Fuguryu Maru's atomic dust have not betrayed American hydrogen warfare secrets.

At the same time a responsible American official assured the Japanese there probably are no dangerously radioactive fish in the Pacific outside the immediate waters of Bikini lagoon.

This official said there was no scientific basis for Japanese fears that the Bikini-Eniwetok tests are polluting fishing waters and threatening one of Japan's key food sources.

He said some fish from the mid-Pacific will register "unsafe" radioactivity on their surface areas, but still would be safe to eat after they are skinned and washed.

Toru Nakagawa, Director of the Japanese Foreign Ministry's Asian Affairs Bureau, handed a note to U. S. Embassy officials "requesting the U. S. Government's consideration of the serious effects of the atomic bomb tests and the widening of the danger area of Japanese fisheries."

The note was the first official governmental action against the mid-Pacific tests since the start of a nationwide scare resulting from the radiation burning of the 23 fishermen.

Today, The News comes to the defense of small boys, small dogs, small eagles and small owls. Don't miss Don May's story and pictures on Page 37.)

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