

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Action  
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Control: 6822  
Rec'd: September 16, 1954  
8:04 p.m.

FROM: Tokyo

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TO: Secretary of State

SECURITY INFORMATION TO THE SECRETARY  
S/AE

NO: 649, September 16, 8 p.m.

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DEPARTMENT PASS TO ADMIRAL STRAUSS AEC FROM ALLISON

1. Today's MAINICHI, leading Tokyo newspaper, carried front-page headline "US A-Energy Commission's reply fires Japanese weather experts" and long article excerpts from which follow:
2. "Japanese meteorologists are indignant over reply by US AEC stating that (1) radioactivity in open sea as result of tests is so small there is no (repeat no) reason to fear any hazard from eating fish caught outside Bikini and Eniwetok Atolls and (2) atomic experiments are not (repeat not) causing any special meteorological changes. AEC reply is signed by its spokesman Shelby Thompson and is addressed to Prof. Hisamao Hatakeyama, Director Japan Meteorological Institute" (JMI)
3. Article continues AEC reply sent in answer to declaration drawn up by JMI general convention held Tokyo May 20. Declaration had been sent to US Weather Bureau which forwarded it to AEC for reply. Some members JMI favored sending immediate protest to AEC, but JMI decided "not to get mixed up in controversy of political nature. Instead a great debate will be held on meteorological effects of atomic and hydrogen bombs at Central Meteorological Observatory on September 24". Materials from this meeting will be sent to AEC "to arouse reconsideration from scientific standpoint".
4. Article continues that immediately on receipt AEC reply JMI held Director's Meeting to decide its attitude and resolved "(1) the sender (AEC) was not (repeat not) a scientific body and did not (repeat not) understand well the meaning of JMI's declaration and (2) it tends to solve problem from a political standpoint as it includes problems of Soviet Russia and compensation to sufferers". JMI further decided to send again to AEC Professor Miyake's report on "man-made radioactive rain which fell on Japan" and survey report from Shunkotsu Maru. Article concludes "meteorologists hope that they will obtain another more sincere reply given from scientific standpoint".
5. How serious will be JMI meeting September 24 at which entire controversy will be re-opened and to what extent unfriendly press will attempt exploit differences of opinion, we cannot predict.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW	1. DETERMINATION (CIRCLE NUMBER(S)) A. REVIEWED BY: <i>AA Singsale 5/11/74</i>
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6. DATE: <i>5/11/74</i>	7. REVIEWER: <i>P. P. Connor</i>

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Up to present

MILITARY DEPARTMENT 7-6

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-2- 649, September 16, 8 p.m., from Tokyo

Up to present our experience has been that every pretext has been utilized keep Bikini incident alive in press. Extreme political sensitivity of Japanese public opinion to nuclear questions is so evident that I would like to suggest in future, if possible, direct correspondence from AEC to Japanese be channeled through Embassy so as to avoid placing us at disadvantage when incidents such as this occur. Believe also that our knowledge of local scene can be of use to you by making it possible for us to advise you when timing or substance of a communication is undesirable from standpoint our national interest here.

6. Transmittal through Embassy channels of Doctor Boss' recent letter to Doctor Kaya re autumn JSC-AEC conference was most helpful and appreciated. I am convinced that similar collaboration in case of other correspondence and requests from Japanese scientists with clearance for political content by Department or Embassy will help to prevent aftermath of Fukuryu Maru case from plaguing us periodically.

ALLISON

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