

NWO: 972006A
By DM/54 Date 6/22/02

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

February 29, 1956

AEC 787/18

COPY NO. 23

R

ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

NUCLEAR TESTS AT THE PACIFIC PROVING GROUNDS

Note by the Secretary

The following listed enclosures are circulated for the information of the Commission by request of the General Manager:

- Enclosure I - Message to Chairman, AEC, from Brig. Gen. E. C. DeCoursey, dated February 24, 1956.
- Enclosure II - Message to Secretary of State from Parsons, dated February 23, 1956.
- Enclosure III - Memorandum to the Special Assistant to General Manager (Liaison) from Director of International Affairs, dated February 21, 1956.
- Enclosure IV - Memorandum from the Special Assistant to the Secretary of State to Director of International Affairs, dated February 13, 1956.
- Enclosure V - Message to the Secretary of State from Ambassador Allison, dated February 9, 1956.

W. B. McCool

Secretary

STATE DEPT. DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW

Retain class'n Change to _____

Declassify in part and excise as shown

Declassify After _____

EO 12958, 25X () (X)

With concurrence of DOE (not shown)

IPS/CR/IR by SM Date 6-10-95

DISTRIBUTION

COPY NO.

Secretary	1
Commissioners	2 - 6, 26
General Manager	7
Deputy Gen. Mgr.	8
Asst. Gen. Mgr. Mfg.	9
Asst. Gen. Mgr. R&ID	10
Asst. Gen. Mgr. Adm.	11
General Counsel	12 - 13
Biology & Medicine	14
Information	15
Inspection	16
Intelligence	17
International Affairs	18 - 20
Military Application	21
Spec. Asst. GM (Liaison)	22
Secretariat	23 - 25

05/24/95
WChubb
5/30/95
KSO

CONTAINS NO DOE CLASSIFIED INFO
COORDINATE WITH DOS

WITH ATTACHMENTS

When separated from enclosures handle this document as.....

~~OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~

This material contains information affecting the national defense of the United States within the meaning of the espionage laws, Title 18, U.S.C., Sec. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

NWO 972006A - 238

~~SECRET~~

NWO: 972006A
By DM/54 Date 6/22/02

REPOSITORY
RG 596- Office of the Secretary
COLLECTION 11/19/51-1958 CORRESP

BOX NO. 809 (NN3-326-93-010)

FOLDER MR3A7 Redwing V/1

R

~~SECRET~~

This document consists of 10 pages

Copy No. 23 of 26 Series A

~~SECRET~~

ENCLOSURE I

February 24, 1956

CRYPTO WAR SVC EIGHT FOUR TWO FOUR RELAYS MSG DTG TWO FOUR
ZERO FIVE THREE ONE ZEBRA FROM CGUSARPAC TO AEC WASHDC FROM
DECOURSEY, ATTN LEWIS L STRAUSS CHAIRMAN, CITE ROGER SIX ONE
SEVEN FIVE EIGHT

WARREN CONCERNED OVER POTENTIAL REACTION IN JAPAN TO
FORTHCOMING TESTS. HAVE DISCUSSED WITH PARSONS OF TOKYO EMBASSY
IN ALLISONS ABSENCE. URGE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATIONS OF
RECOMMENDATIONS IN HIS RECENT SECRET MSG TO STATE DEPT.

SPECIFICALLY, JAPAN INSTEAD OF INDIA ON INTERNATIONAL
ATOMIC ENERGY MEMBERSHIP ALSO FUND PLACED IN JAPANESE
GOVERNMENTAL HANDS TO COVER ANY LEGITIMATE FISHING OR OTHER
CLAIMS. ALSO PLAN FOR JOINT AMERICAN JAPANESE OCEANOGRAPHIC
RADIATION FALLOUT SURVEY TO CHECK CONTAMINATION OF FISHING AREAS.

BELIEVE THESE MEASURES WILL DO MUCH TO PREVENT FALSE
PROPAGANDA AND ILL WILL TO UNITED STATES, ANTI DASH TEST FEELING
STRONG AT MOST LEVELS IN JAPAN, ALL BITTER DISAPPOINTMENT NOT TO
HAVE ASIAN ATOMIC ENERGY CENTER.

OUR MISSION HAS HELPED SOMEWHAT TO COUNTERACT DISAPPOINTMENT.

HATAYAM GOVT NOT STRONG, ALL FOREGOING FROM WARREN.

DECOURSEY AGREES

This material contains information affecting the
national defense of the United States within the
meaning of the espionage laws, Title 18, U.S.C.,
Sec. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation
of which in any manner to an unauthorized person
is prohibited by law.

STATE DEPT. DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW

- Retain class'n Change to _____
 Declassify with concurrence of DOE (retained)
 Declassify in part & exclude as shown
 Declassify ~~entirely~~

- 1 -

Enclosure I

~~SECRET~~

FORWARDED BY SM Date 6-29-98

239

~~SECRET~~

R

~~SECRET~~

ENCLOSURE II

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

February 23, 1956

FROM: TOKYO
TO : Secretary of State

As instructed in your telegram, I discussed with Dr. Shields Warren this morning measures recommended by the Embassys telegrams including compensation for damages which may result from impending test series. Dr. Warren said I might quote him as supporting fully Embassy's views. He remarked that on the basis of his extensive contacts with the Japanese scientists here, his observations ran strictly parallel to ours. He is aware of the urgent necessity and decision on these matters and plans, he will send a message to Admiral Strauss through Military channels from Honolulu. He expects to make his views further known when in Washington.

Dr. Bugher is returning home from Tokyo for a few days, and I hope to see him early in the week.

PARSONS

STATE DEPT. DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW
 Retain classification
 Declassify with exception of DOE (continued)
 Declassify in part as shown
 Declassify

SPS/CR/IR by SP Date 6 29 98

Enclosure II

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

ENCLOSURE III

UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

MEMORANDUM

February 21, 1956

TO : P. F. Foster, Special Assistant to GM/Liaison
FROM : John A. Hall, Director, Division of International Affairs
SUBJECT: INCOMING TELEGRAM 1839 DATED FEBRUARY 9, 1956 FROM
AMBASSADOR ALLISON IN TOKYO
SYMBOL : IA:CLH

You requested by telephone on February 20 a report for the OCB on the actions being taken by the Atomic Energy Commission in connection with the subject telegram concerning relations with the Japanese during and after the forthcoming Pacific tests. Attached for your information is a copy of a memorandum dated February 13 from G. Smith S/AE to my office, outlining specific suggestions with regard to the subject telegram.

Copies of both the telegram and the memorandum were forwarded immediately to the Divisions of Biology and Medicine and Military Application. After preliminary discussions, a meeting was called on Friday, February 17 at 10:00 a.m. to determine if there were further steps that could be taken to improve the situation in Japan. In attendance were: Dr. Dunham and Dr. Boss, of the Division of Biology and Medicine; Col. Schnittke, of the Division of Military Application; George Spiegel, of the Department of State; Chris Henderson and Jim Goodby of my office.

The following actions have been taken or proposed by the AEC:

(1) Technical advisers to US Ambassador on radiation

As an immediate response to Ambassador Allison's telegram, we suggested to the Department of State that he be advised that Dr. Shields Warren and Dr. John Bugher were in Japan and that he should consult with them regarding the problem. We propose to advise the Department of State that we will have, either in Japan or immediately available, a technical consultant to the Ambassador during and immediately after the series.

(2) Prior notification to the Japanese of prohibited areas

The Department of State will present to the Japanese Embassy on February 21 a note defining the danger area for the forthcoming series of nuclear tests. Public notice of the danger area will be made later this week. (Reference attached notes.)

STATE DEPT. DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW

Retain class'n Change to _____
 Declassify with concurrence of DCI (obtain A)
 Declassify in part & create as shown
 Declassify _____

- 3 -

Enclosure III

~~SECRET~~

SPS/CR/RE by SKC Date 6-29-98

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

(3) Notification of duration of tests

Information as to the length or duration of the series is classified. Col. Schnittke of DMA is exploring with the Task Force the possibility of releasing this information to the Japanese. The Department of State attaches some importance to such information since, without it, the Japanese fishing industry would be hampered considerably in developing its forward plans.

(4) Compensation to Japanese should they incur damage or economic loss

This question of international law is under advisement by the legal staff of the Department of State.

(5) Invitation to Japanese to serve as observers

This suggestion in the subject telegram from Ambassador Allison has been discussed with the Division of Military Application. The only foreign observers being considered are Canadian and UK who will be cleared under DOD Bilateral Agreements.

(6) Marine Biological Survey

Personnel from the Division of Biology and Medicine will conduct two marine surveys in the vicinity of the Pacific Proving Ground. A first cruise will be made about a month after the first shot and a second will be made after the last shot. The Division of Biology and Medicine believes that these radiological surveys will provide a basis for factual statements concerning the extent of radioactivity contained in the sea and in marine life as a result of the Pacific tests. Both Japanese and American fishing interests, as well as our more general political interest, require the best advice possible on this subject. It is proposed to notify the Japanese government of this survey as soon as plans are completed. The Division of Biology and Medicine also proposes to take up with DMA and the Task Force the possibility of exchanging with the Japanese data collected during this survey.

In addition, the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission is planning a large operation this summer to estimate the distribution of Salmon and other fish. Ships, both commercial and research, from Japan, Canada and the United States will participate. None of these ships will enter the Danger Area. We anticipate that the Japanese will assign their two research ships directly north and northwest of the Pacific Proving Ground, to an area in the north equatorial current, northwest and due west of PPG. This is where their research survey ship Shunkatsu-Maru found the greatest radioactivity in the water, plankton, and fish in June 1954. A detailed statement of the plans for this survey, as well as for the radiobiological marine survey mentioned above, is being prepared by Dr. Boss, Division of Biology and Medicine for transmittal to Ambassador Allison. Whereas plans call for maximum cooperation in the exchange of information, it is not proposed to conduct joint surveys in the sense that there will be Japanese and American scientists on the same ship.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

(7) Report on Safety Measures - Operation REDWING

Attached is a copy of the remarks presented by Maj. Gen. John C. MacDonald on the Safety Measures - Operation REDWING. It is proposed to present to the Japanese government a revised unclassified draft report based on these remarks. The Division of Military Application has agreed to prepare this document for release to the Japanese government and to the US Delegation to the UN Trusteeship Council some time next week.

(8) Exchange of Information on radiation standards

A conference on radiobiology was held at the request of the Science Council of Japan on November 15-19, 1954. On this occasion the US Delegation was able to provide the Japanese with a considerable body of information regarding US concepts of permissible levels of radioaction exposure and the application of these principles to practical problems. A copy of the report on this conference is attached.

Through informal contacts with the Japanese scientific community, the Division of Biology and Medicine has indicated that it would be receptive to a follow-up conference to be held in the US. It is proposed to issue a formal invitation for a second US-Japan Radiobiology Conference through formal diplomatic channels.

Please note that since the November 14, 1954 conference, there have been continuing contacts between US and Japanese scientists, unofficially as well as officially, in the field of radiobiology.

(9) UN Scientific Committee on Radiation

The UN Scientific Committee on Radiation will hold its first meeting March 14. One of its first acts will be to recommend uniform standards with respect to procedures for sample collection and instrumentation, and radiation counting procedures to be used in analysis of samples. The AEC has prepared a preliminary draft proposing uniform standards, which has been passed to the UK for review. It is proposed to submit to the UN for distribution to member nations of the UN Committee a final draft of this proposal next week. Although the Japanese will receive a draft through this official channel, we plan to forward to Dr. Masao Tsuzuki, the Japanese representative, a copy as soon as it is available. Mr. Merrill Eisenbud, Manager of the New York Operations Office, has indicated that the proposal will be ready for distribution on February 27. We are also prepared to offer to Japan, as well as to other member states, US technical assistance in the establishment of collection stations and in training in methods of analysis of radiation samples. We feel that it would be in the interest of the US if tentative standards were approved by the UN Committee and if collection stations were established prior to the tests.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

ENCLOSURE IV

SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

February 13, 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR

Mr. John A. Hall,
Atomic Energy Commission.

I refer to telegram 1839 dated February 9 from the Embassy at Tokyo reporting on the rising Japanese concern over the proposed tests in the Pacific and suggesting certain things that might be done to better the situation.

We should appreciate receiving on an urgent basis the AEC's comments on the following actions that might be taken. In this connection Admiral Hanlon recently briefed a group of officers in the Department on REDWING and some of the following were developed as a result of this briefing.

1. Immediately inform the Japanese of the proposed marine biological survey that will be conducted during and after the test series and offer to make available to them the analyses of the data obtained. In addition ask the Japanese to join us in a joint survey of the waters outside the danger area. Further let us consider what might be done through collaboration of the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission (U.S., Canada, and Japan).

2. Immediately inform the Japanese and also the Trusteeship Council of the details of the safety precautions that we plan to take during the series. This would include information on improved methods of weather forecasting, location of Radiation Safety monitors on various atolls, air and surface searches to assure that no unsuspecting mariner is within the danger area, etc.

3. Increase the exchange of information on radiation standards with appropriate Japanese. Since there has already been an exchange of this type of information, it might be advisable only to encourage the Japanese to publicize this point. Should the Japanese so request it, we might send another team to Tokyo similar to the one sent in November 1954.

4. Immediately inform the Japanese on a confidential basis of the fact that the danger area will be continued until at least August in order that fishing groups can make their forward plans accordingly. Unless something is said on this point the Japanese may conjecture that the period of the establishment may not exceed that of CASTLE with the result that plans would have to be changed.

STATE DEPT. DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW

Retain class'n Change to

Declassify with concurrence of Doc (abtan) 1 - 6 -

Declassify in part & excise as shown

Declassify

Enclosure IV

~~SECRET~~

IPS/CR/IR by SR Dec 6 19 98

244

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

In the course of the REDWING briefing reference was made to the information available in the Division of Biology and Medicine on historical Japanese fishing patterns in and around the proposed danger area. We would appreciate the opportunity of meeting with Dr. Boss and others in the Commission to discuss means of obtaining more information on this matter in order that we might have more than the word of the Japanese on any "economic losses" suffered as a result of the establishment of the danger area and the conducting of the tests. We also feel that it would be useful for State and AEC representatives to meet with representatives of the Japanese Embassy and two Japanese Fishing Agency officials, Mr. Masuda and Dr. Fujimaga, who are presently in Washington for the Fur Seal Conference to discuss fishing patterns, radiation standards, calibration of instruments, etc.

Lastly we feel that it would be helpful to notify the Japanese on a confidential basis both here and in Tokyo of the establishment of the danger areas at least 3 days in advance of its publication in Notice to Mariners, etc. to carry out the appearance of "prior" consultation.

The foregoing gives an indication of the type of cooperative action we should like to propose in order to help ameliorate the situation in Japan. Suggestions on other things that might be done would be welcome.

/s/

Gerard C. Smith

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

ENCLOSURE V

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

February 9, 1956

FROM: TOKYO

TO : Secretary of State

1. Press February 6 and 7 gave top play to Bipartisan Diet resolution calling for discontinuation of all nuclear tests. Resolution to be submitted to lower house February 9. Gist of resolution as reported in the press:

"Most pressing of demands are the concern of prohibition of A and H-Bomb tests. Yet USSR has conducted tests without warning and the U.S. now revealed plans for staging H-Bomb tests at Eniwetok in the near future. In addition, the U.K. reportedly projecting dimilar weapons tests. The Japanese people were affected most severly by the A and H-Bombs, proposed strongly that all future tests of this kind be discontinued by international agreement. The Government will take appropriate steps for submitting proposal to the U.S. U.S.S.R. and U.K."

2. The resolution is an end product of socialist interpellations on the subject following reconvening of the diet January 30. Once the diet met, socialists, who had previously announced plans criticize the Government on this issue, pressed Shigemitsu hard in effort to embarrass the Government. Shigemitsu in reply was on the defensive, and admitted theoretical desirability of ending A and H-Bomb tests but pointing out impracticability of formal Japanese request to this effect. Shigemitsu also, reportedly, stressed to the Japanese Government efforts to assure compensation for any damages. Apparently in this connection, vice foreign Minister Kadowaki spoke to the press conference on February 2 that the Japanese Embassy in Washington had sent a note to the Department concerning safety zones and desire for compensation. Finally, the socialists on February 4 decided to submit resolution calling for ban on atomic and Hydrogen bomb experiments, in particular appealing to U.S. to call of the spring test series. To ward off criticism, liberal democrats yesterday drafted their own resolution and then agreed on the joint resolution incorporating the viewpoints of both parties. Liberal democrats added to the resolution reference initially to soviet tests and proposal for discontinuing the tests by "International Agreement".

- 8 -

Enclosure V

STATE DEPT. DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW

- Retain class'n Change to _____
 Declassify with concurrence of DDZ (Obained)
 Declassify in part & excise as shown
 Declassify as _____

~~SECRET~~

IPS/GR/ER by 5A Date 6-29-78

246

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

3. The diet interpellations and resolution came after a period of weeks during which the pacific tests drew only a low key and sporadic interest and comment along the lines of initial reaction to the announcement as it is reported in reftel. The press gave particular play on January 20 and 21 to reports from Washington quoting Japanese Embassy official as stating Japan reserving the right to seek compensation if the tests had contaminated or damaged their fishing grounds. Mainichi the only major paper to comment editorially. Mainichi on January 20 protested to the tests by all countries and stressed the right of Japan to protest since it was the only nation to have suffered by the atomic attack. Stronger criticism voiced by left wing circles, with commie front groups most vociferous. Commie sponsored the Japan council for prohibition of A and H-Bombs has announced plans to circulate a petition against the Pacific tests. The Japan science council revealed on January 25 that it had received a letter from the British Nuclear Physicist C. R. Powell, Chairman Executive Council World Federation Scientific Workers, calling on Japanese scientists to cooperate in effort to warn world of "Perils that confront it if course of unrestricted production and testing nuclear weapons followed". The JSC intends to discuss the Powell letter at the annual meeting to be held in April.

4. However, in the past week as the diet debate is in progress, several foreign office officials that are handling this problem have expressed considerable concern over possible repercussions from the tests and in particular warned that the U.S. should not be misled by comparatively mild initial press reaction to announcement of this year's tests. American desk officer believes that fishing interests will cause particular difficulties. He anticipates that the fishermen will demand compensation for the time and expense required to detour around the test area and possibly also for exclusion from fishing in test area. Reaction will be heightened, in his view, by reoccurrence of problem of "Radioactive tuna". For this reason, he suggested informally that the U.S. and Japanese scientists agree prior to tests on reasonable standard of radiation.

5. In addition to the above signs of future difficulties from diet and foreign office, we should assume that international communism will try to produce deliberately some incident which will cause as much havoc as accident of fortunate dragon did in 1954. Hence it is desirable to be prepared for prompt counter action, in collaboration with the Japanese if possible.

6. Even if such dramatic event fails materialize, evident evident that serious problems lie ahead, particularly in the view of the fact that conservatives and socialists that are united behind diet resolution. I believe the best way to minimize these problems is to advance consultation with the Japanese wherever feasible. This has already paid tangible dividends in case of timing test announcement, and while nuclear bombs remain highly sensitive subject here peaceful atoms collaboration has done much to accustom the Japanese to General idea of teamwork in nuclear matters. Advance consultation appreciated as token our concern with the Japanese feelings and interests, and can be a means of inducing constructive initiative on Japanese side in the place of defensive helplessness which has been usual response of JG to public attacks on nuclear matters.

~~SECRET~~

247

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

7. Several forms of cooperation with the Japanese might be considered: (a) give ample notice of prohibited areas, timing of tests, etc., to assure fishing fleets warned prior departure from port; (b) to invite observers if any foreigners are to be present at tests; (c) arrange periodic consultations on safety precautions and radiation standards; (d) conduct a joint scientific survey after the tests, and to determine whether normal fishing grounds were contaminated; and (e) to encourage the Japanese to work out an orderly procedures for application of these standards in order to avoid panic over irradiated fish.

8. Compensation demands which can be expected from fishing interest are likely to be a specially tough problem. If the fishing had been convinced that the tests have led to serious contamination of fishing grounds and catch, demands for compensation could be exorbitant and tainted with emotional overtones. However, even if no question of contamination of fishing interests are likely to make demands along lines anticipated by foreign offices. It is believed urgent therefore from the viewpoint of the U.S. interests that some consideration be given by the Washington agencies concerned to methods of meeting this problem.

ALLISON

~~SECRET~~

R

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DANGER AREA

NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN - Marshall Islands - Eniwetok and Bikini Atolls

Danger Area - Information -

Effective 20 April 1956 the Danger Area enclosed by the following geographic coordinates is established as an area dangerous to all ships, aircraft and personnel entering within these limits:

18° 30' N 158° 00' E - 18° 30' N 172° 00' E - 11° 30' N 172° 00' E - 11° 30' N 166° 16' E - 10° 15' N 166° 16' E - 10° 15' N 158° 00' E extending North to 18° 30' N 158° 00' E.

Grave hazards, as a consequence of tests of military weapons, will exist in this area, and all mariners and airmen are cautioned to remain clear.

All possible precautions will be taken to insure against the incidence of injuries to human life or to property within the Danger Area. If necessary, warning of any hazard outside the designated Danger Area will be given in the event that such dangers are created by activities conducted within the Danger Area.

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.3

NND-972006A

By OM/HR Date 6/30/05

STATE DEPT. DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW

- Retain classn. Change to _____
- Declassify with concurrence of DOE (obtained)
- Declassify in part & encise as shown
- Declassify ~~entirely~~

- 4 -

Enclosure 2

SPS/CR/IR by 3A

Date 6/29/08

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

249