

Department of State

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3/24/54, 8:15 a.m.

Action assigned to

CORRECTED PAGE 1

Control: 10117

Rec'd: March 23, 1954

12:11 p.m.

Handwritten initials: FH

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FROM: Tokyo

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TO: Secretary of State

NO: 2279, March 23, 8 p.m. (SECTION ONE OF TWO)

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tion Office Symbol **FE/NAJ**

Eisenbud arrived last night. Briefed at Embassy today, consulted with Morton and ABCC associates and with representatives US fish industry. Japanese Government notified, entrance courtesies extended, but unable arrange meeting with interested official agencies until tomorrow.

2. Despite repeated assurances of full cooperation from Okazaki, strong representations to Tsuchiya (who called Ambassador at mid-night to repeat intentions to cooperate) and designation of Haruai Takeuchi as Central Liaison Officer, official Japanese cooperation continues decline:

(A) Morton and ABCC physicians have only limited access to the two patients at Tokyo University Hospital and have not been permitted to make independent blood counts, urinalysis, et cetera or to take full case histories.

(B) The 21 patients have not been moved from Yaizu. Excuse is some are reluctant to go to Tokyo. Foreign Office inform us privately real difficulty is with hospital officials. Yaizu authorities want to retain patients; Tokyo doctors and bureaucrats cannot agree whether Tokyo University or National Health Institute should have custody.

(C) FUKURYU MARU still held at Yaizu. Foreign Office says Japanese doctors and scientists pressuring government not to release vessel so that they may continue indefinitely study of its radioactivity and have opportunity publish necessary scientific papers "so whole world will know how to treat such case."

(D) Emotional press stories continue alleging US wishes obtain ship "to destroy the evidence," and US interested in patients only as guinea pigs (note: 21 patients left in Provincial Hospital at Yaizu and denied US aid while Japanese doctors argue over prescriptive rights to future monographs). Press vying in sensationalism with reports of radioactive illness throughout nation, new cargoes of radioactive fish or boats arriving from Pacific, contamination of ocean currents, et cetera, lead for much of this given by normally reputable Japanese scientists, Doctor Tsuzuki of Tokyo University, for instance, predicted to Diet yesterday two patients would die, called Japan victimized countries

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-2- 2279, March 23, 8 p.m., (SECTION ONE OF TWO) from Tokyo

country, US irresponsible, and said no need exists for US interference or assistance.

3. Explanation this state of affairs probably combination of following:

(A) Inability government to control scientists and doctors, weakness of security framework for legal controls, and lack of sense of responsibility to devise means to cope with this emergency.

(B) In-fighting among Japanese official agencies whose scientists and bureaucrats sense moment of glory and opportunity for future atomic research leadership. Principal rivals are Ministry of Education (Tokyo University), Ministry of Welfare, National Institute Health.

(C) Peculiar psychology Japanese scientists, compounded of nationalism, neutralism, utopianism, softness toward communism, and, for many of them, bitter resentment over their treatment under occupation. Tsuzuki, for example, had his reports on Hiroshima and Nagasaki confiscated, published under occupationnaires names, was purged, prevented from becoming full professor at Tokyo

ALLISON

LMS:MEJ/8

* As received; correction to follow.

Note: Read by Miss Jensen (H) 1:30 p.m., 3/23/54, DES

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1954 MAR 23 PM 4 36

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FROM: Tokyo

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 2279, March 23 (SECTION TWO OF TWO)

Control: 9946

Rec'd: March 23, 1954

Action Assigned to 119/1148

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Date of Action _____

University, and has been unable recover from us number of his original monographs.

(D) Morbidity of national attitude re nuclear weapons and widespread feelings of racial inferiority where nuclear experience involved.

4. Whatever cause and despite assurance of cooperation, which Okumura has just renewed to me in behalf Foreign Office, we can no longer permit situation to deteriorate. Unless Department objects, I plan signal limit our toleration tomorrow with letter to Okazaki withdrawing offer for US Navy to decontaminate FUKURYU MARU. Morton, Meek and Eisenbud concur we have no further security interest in vessel, and Navy technicians feel success of operation would in any event be doubtful. I shall cite continued Japanese delays in acknowledging offer and irresponsible press campaign as reasons. We will offer technical advice, if requested, for whatever decontamination Japanese may undertake. This does not of course affect question compensation to owner.

5. My recommendations re compensation still stand. We continue regard them justified by all we know of merits of case and on public relations grounds. We must, however, be prepared make major effort to impress on Japanese Government seriousness of its present attitude. If its irresponsibility toward security, its bureaucratic competitions, and its scientific malice continue, entire range our future cooperation -- in peaceful atomic cooperation, in MSA, and in economic policy -- may be jeopardized. This is a major test of post-war Japanese responsibility, and not only US but other nations free world are watching how they meet it.

6. Please pass this telegram and all others this series to Bugher AEC.

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MRM:GB/12

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