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By *PAY* NARA, Date *3/2/90*

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Rec'd: May 4, 1954
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FROM: Tokyo
TO: Secretary of State
NO: 2702, May 4, 7 p.m.

See report
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY
SM S/AE
MAY 6 1954

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1. Re FUKURYU MARU, I have received long letter from Foreign Minister dated May 1 and written at direction Prime Minister in reply letter April 2 (Embassy's 2402).

2. Letter states unexpected disaster to vessel came as strong shock to Japanese people "who have twice before been victims of the atomic bomb". Because of their extreme sensitivity to subject of atomic casualty, their reaction to incident has been unfavorable to US. Prime Minister is deeply concerned lest this trend impair friendly cooperation between US and Japan and is paying serious attention to problem. "Series of situations" created by incident has put Japanese Government in embarrassing circumstances in trying meet desires US Government but it will continue make every effort possible in sincere endeavor satisfy US wishes.

3. Letter then cites three of most important points:

(A) Re US offer decontaminate vessel, Foreign Office communicated on March 27 government's decision purchase vessel.

(B) Re analyses ashes from vessel, Japanese scientists undertook this research to attempt find clue for appropriate medical treatment. It was unfortunate that findings were made public without proper coordination, but having no (repeat no) current legislation which maintains security atomic research it is difficult for government control publication of results such research. At present however atomic bomb injury investigation committee established in Welfare Ministry is responsible for publication of findings on medical treatment in a unified manner.

(C) Re treatment patients, government has made every effort possible to enable American physicians have access to patients. Regretted that this arrangement has not worked smoothly due to fact patients unwilling submit themselves to care American physicians in fear treatment "as experimental material rather than as therapeutic object". Government will continue endeavor erase any misunderstanding which patients may have so that American physicians may be able extend medical assistance.

4. Letter concludes we should not allow present irritations over incident interfere in any way with friendly relationships

between

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-2- 2702, May 4, 7 p.m., from Tokyo.

between our two countries. In this connection it earnestly hoped early settlement including compensation should be brought about by our mutual efforts.

5. Letter speaks for itself. Our only comments would be: (A) To point to acknowledgement official character of atom bomb injury investigation committee; (B) to regret Japanese Government at highest quarter has accepted view that denial access to patients originated with and was maintained by patients (Dr. Morton and ABCC staff of US and Japanese physicians are firmly convinced this was not the case); and (C) to emphasize we do not doubt in slightest Prime Minister and Foreign Minister are concerned with poor figure Japanese Government has cut throughout incident and will attempt produce acceptable settlement.

ALLISON

LMS:MS/14

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