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November 12, 1954

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ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

EXCHANGE OF NOTES WITH JAPAN CONCERNING POSSIBLE
FUTURE THERMONUCLEAR EXPERIMENTS

Note by the Secretary

The Director of International Affairs has submitted the attached Department of State document for the information of the Commission, with the following comment:

"The attached note from the Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs to Ambassador Allison asks this Government to change the area of the testing grounds in the Pacific and to give the Japanese Government prior information in connection with future tests.

"The General Manager has given the Division of Military Application primary responsibility for the preparation of comments on the note in collaboration with the Division of Biology and Medicine, the Office of the General Counsel and the Office of International Affairs."

W.B. McCool

Secretary

STATUS VERIFIED

BY J. Diaz DATE 8/5/80

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Military Application	14
Secretariat	15-17

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM: American Embassy, Tokyo
TO : The Department of State, Washington
REF : Embassy's Telegram No. 849
SUBJECT: Exchange of Notes with Japan Concerning Possible
Future Thermonuclear Experiments

Desp. No. 468
October 14, 1954

There are enclosed copies of a Note from the Minister of Foreign Affairs to the Ambassador, A 5, No. 1847 dated October 5, 1954; and of the Ambassador's Note to the Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs, No. 679 in response thereto.

The subject matter of both Notes concerns possible thermonuclear experiments which the United States Government may conduct in the future. The substance of the Minister's Note was transmitted to the Department in the Embassy's telegram under reference.

For the Ambassador:

/s/

George A. Morgan
Counselor of Embassy

Enclosures:
Two notes

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A 5, No. 1847

October 5, 1954

Excellency:

As Your Excellency is already well aware, various issues have been raised in this country over the thermonuclear bomb experiments conducted at Bikini this year, and consequently, I have the honor to mention below the wishes of the Government of Japan regarding thermonuclear bomb experiments which the Government of the United States of America may conduct in the future, and request that the Government of the United States of America give sufficient consideration to this matter.

1. The Government of Japan wishes that the Government of the United States will move the thermonuclear bomb testing grounds for 1954 to another location as far as is technically possible.

2. If it is absolutely impossible to take the above mentioned measure, it is requested that the scale of the experiments be maintained at a minimum and that sufficient consideration also be given to the results of the investigations conducted by the relevant Japanese authorities on the effects which this year's experiments had on fish, sea currents, weather conditions and so forth. It is also requested that complete precautionary measures be taken, especially so as not to endanger human lives, and that as one of such precautionary measures, the Government of Japan be given early notice concerning the following matters, prior to conduct of the experiments:

(1) The dates on which the experiments are to be conducted.

(2) The area of the danger zone and the period during which it is designated.

(3) Concrete precautionary measures to be taken.

3. It is requested that when a thermonuclear bomb experiment is held and a danger zone is thus designated, the Government of the United States of America issue sufficient compensation for losses naturally inflicted upon the Japanese fishing industry through such experiment /th: through deprivation of source of supply/ and in case unexpected damage is done to Japanese nationals, full compensation be made for all such dangers regardless of their locations.

It is added that the Government of Japan hopes that discussion will be held in quick order between the competent officers of both Governments regarding concrete measures to be taken for this issue.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

His Excellency

John M. Allison

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
of the United States of America

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No. 670

American Embassy,
Tokyo, October 13, 1954

Excellency:

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of Note A 5, No. 1847, October 5, 1954, with reference to possible thermonuclear experiments which the Government of the United States may conduct in the future.

I have transmitted a copy of the Note under acknowledgment for the consideration of my Government. If the results of the several investigations conducted by the Japanese authorities, mentioned in numbered paragraph two of the Note, have now been compiled and can be made available to the Embassy, I will be pleased to transmit them for appropriate consideration.

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my most distinguished consideration.

His Excellency
Taketora Ogata,
Minister of Foreign Affairs, ad interim,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Tokyo