

70359

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : AMEMBASSY TOKYO

EST. 19

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

January 26, 1955

REF : Department's Instruction A-486, January 7, 1955; Embassy telegram 849, October 8, Embassy Despatch 468, October 14, 1954

15 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.	OC/R-2	# 57
	REC'D	F OTHER		
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SUBJECT: Japanese Note of October 5, 1954, Concerning United States Tests

The comments of the AEC on the Japanese note regarding further thermonuclear experiments, as transmitted in the Department's Instruction A-468, have been considered by the Embassy in the light of developments which have occurred since the Foreign Office note was received. These include the settlement of the Fukuryu Maru incident and recent press notices to the effect that the autumn tests in the Pacific have been called off.

The Embassy fully agrees with the Department that it would be inadvisable to reopen the entire subject at this time by transmitting to the Japanese Government the latest AEC opinion regarding precautionary measures. This is particularly true in view of the fact that, from the Japanese point of view, the Commission's reply does not seem to give sufficient consideration to the unfortunate results of the last test. Also, mention of the possibility of resumption of tests in the Pacific would probably have an adverse effect on public opinion here.

For the Ambassador

George A. Morgan  
Counselor of Embassy

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Classification

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ORIGIN SUBJECT: Japanese Note of October 5, 1954 Concerning United States Tests

# 57

TO: American Embassy TOKYO

Reference: Embassy's telegram 849, October 8, 1954 and Embassy Despatch 468, October 14, 1954.

The Japanese Note enclosed with the despatch under reference was referred to the AEC with the request for comment and suggestions as to what reply should be made. There follows the text of the Commission's reply:

1. The present overseas testing site was selected after thorough consideration of many possibilities. It was selected because it was determined to be the location farthest from populated areas where the likelihood of hazard to personnel would be minimized, and still available to the United States Government.

The United States has kept its nuclear experimentation to a level consistent with defense needs. No test is held which does not contribute materially to the defense posture of the United States and to the maintenance of international peace. Any tests which are conducted in the future will, as in the past, be executed on the basis of requirements dictated by common defense needs.

Department of Energy  
Historian's Office

In all future tests, knowledge which has been gained from past experiences will be utilized to minimize hazards of all types. This is in accord with normal operating procedures of the Atomic Energy Commission and all United States military services.

2. Concerning notification to the Japanese Government of dates on which future tests will take place, the United States Government, because of security reasons, can do no more than give the Japanese the benefit of information contained in general announcements of test activity. This information will be conveyed at the same time that the American people are informed.

3. Prior to any future tests, a danger area similar in scope to the one established after the March 1, 1954 detonation will be established. As has been the practice prior to all past tests, public dissemination of the extent of the danger area will be widespread.

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CLEARANCES: In Substance: NA - R. Finn

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