

**OVERSEAS NATIONAL AIRWAYS
MEMORANDUM**

DATE 2 April 1954 0055Z

ACTION INFO

FROM MR. Larsen

TO MR. Tompkins

101550

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SUBJECT

MR.

Our telecon 31 March 1954

MR.

REFERENCE

Your memo 1 April 1954 2330Z

MR.

MR.

1. Trip 351/27, aircraft 991, was delayed approximately nine hours at Tokyo due to possible radioactive contamination of the aircraft and crew.
2. When Captain Love arrived at Tokyo, he reported that he had passed through an unusual cloud between Wake and Marcus Island. While passing through the cloud, the cockpit window was pelted with what looked like particles of coral dust. This deposit did not wash off, even though the ship was later flown through heavy rain squalls.
3. Far East Air Force Headquarters was notified, and an order was issued to isolate the crew and place a heavy guard about the aircraft until cleared by the Atomic Energy representative. A considerable portion of the delay was due to the time it took the representative to reach Haneda from Yeazu. At eight o'clock in the morning he arrived and went over the aircraft with a Geiger counter. Tests showed the aircraft to be free from radioactive contamination except for a slight degree emitted by the dust on the glass of the cockpit window.
4. The crew and station manager were given examinations in Tokyo and were all free from radioactivity.
5. The aircraft was washed down as a precautionary measure before being released for flight to the States.
6. The whole case was treated as secret, and information concerning the delay or condition of the aircraft was classified and our station manager was unable to advise us by wire the reason for the delay. Considerable effort was made to keep the news from the papers in Tokyo, as the Japanese have been unduly alarmed over the incidents concerning their fishing fleet, and it was felt that unfavorable publicity would result.
7. The crew members have been released and are returning to Oakland in their regular rotation.

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