

US DOE ARCHIVES

RG 826 U.S. ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

Collection DGM

Box 5505

Folder MARCH - 1954

USAC, WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DOS
Folder 83

MAR 22 1954

OPERATIONAL IMMEDIATE

137077

(R) shown to Mr. Campbell 3/26/54 N

CJTF-7, ENIWET-K, M. I.

TO CLARKSON FROM NICHOLS - PASS TO STRAUSS

REF: 191204Z. IN VIEW OF THE INFORMATION BELOW WHICH YOU DID NOT HAVE WE HAVE REVISED STATEMENT AND IF YOU WOULD WILL PASS TO HAGERTY MARCH 27, 1954. PARAGRAPH. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY TO DATE OF GOVERNMENTAL DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING JAPANESE FISHERMEN:

1. FOREIGN OFFICE INFORMED U.S. LEGASSY, TOKYO, JAPANESE FISHING VESSEL FUKURYU MARU ARRIVED JAPAN MARCH 11 FROM VICINITY BIKINI ATOL WITH TEN CREW MEMBERS APPARENTLY SUFFERING FROM RADIATION SICKNESS. TWO REPORTED SERIOUS CONDITION; ALL TEN REPORTEDLY SHOW SYMPTOM BURNS ON SKIN SURFACE AND FALLING HAIR. JAPANESE MARITIME SAFETY BOARD PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION RELAYED TO LEGASSY BY FOREIGN OFFICE INDICATES VESSEL WAS AT NORTH LATITUDE 21 DEGREES 53 MINUTES, EAST LONGITUDE 166 DEGREES 58 MINUTES AT 0940 HOURS MARCH 1 WHEN TWO EXPLOSIONS WERE HEARD. AT 0630 HOURS SUBSTANCE APPEARING TO BE ASHES REPORTEDLY FELL FROM CLOUD. WITHIN FOUR DAYS ALL 23 CREW MEMBERS NOTICED LOSS OF APETITE AND LASCITUDE. WITHIN SIX DAYS SURFACE BURNS APPEARED ON SKIN OF MEN AFFECTED. FOREIGN OFFICE WILL KEEP LEGASSY INFORMED OF FURTHER INVESTIGATION AND CONDITION OF CREWMEN.

2. ON MARCH 16 ALC ASKED STATE DEPARTMENT TO INSTRUCT AMBASSADOR ALISON
BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Col. Huston/vcj
Room 276
Ext. 519

CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED *

BY AUTHORITY OF DOE/OC

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ J. Diaz 2/18/92

REVIEWED BY DATE

* Ltr. Dos Machak To
DOG.OC 1/12/90

NO DOE CLASS. INFO
COORDINATE
DOS
7/24/89

14

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CJTF-7

2

3-19-54

TO CONTACT MR. MORTO , ABCC, TOKYO AND COL. ARTHUR KLEES, USAF, TOKYO, TO BE TECHNICAL CONSULTANTS IN DEVELOPING FULL REPORT. IN ADDITION, TO ARRANGE FOR JAPANESE GOVERNMENT TO PLACE SHIP UNDER EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF COMNAVFL.

3. ON MARCH 16 SECRETARY DULLES, WHEN QUESTIONED BY PRESS, CALLED IT "REGRETTABLE INCIDENT" ON WHICH HE DID NOT WISH TO COMMENT UNTIL FULL INFORMATION RECEIVED.

4. ON MARCH 17, AMBASSADOR ALLISON ¹³⁰⁰ REPORTED THAT HE HAD MADE REQUEST TO JAPAN GOVERNMENT RE CONTROL OF FISHING VESSELS AND ABCC SENDING TEAM OF THREE AMERICAN AND THREE JAPANESE DOCTORS TO CONSULT IN TREATING INJURED JAPANESE FISHERMEN. AMBASSADOR ALLISON REQUESTED HE BE AUTHORIZED TO MAKE STATEMENT ON "COMPENSATION".

5. ON MARCH 17, AMBASSADOR ALLISON WAS AUTHORIZED TO ADVISE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT ALONG FOLLOWING LINES: "THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS GRAVELY CONCERNED OVER REPORTS THAT SOME JAPANESE FISHERMEN HAVE SUFFERED INJURY DURING THE COURSE OF ATOMIC TESTS IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS CONDUCTING AN INVESTIGATION IN COOPERATION WITH JAPANESE AUTHORITIES ON ALL THE FACTS IN THIS CASE IN ORDER TO DETERMINE HOW THIS REGRETTABLE ACCIDENT OCCURRED DESPITE THE CAREFUL PRECAUTIONS TAKEN AND INCLUDING WARNINGS ISSUED OVER A WIDE AREA. THE UNITED STATES IS PREPARED TO TAKE SUCH STEPS AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO INSURE FAIR AND JUST COMPENSATION IF THE FACTS WARRANT."

DOE ARCHIVES

6. ON MARCH 18, AMBASSADOR ALLISON REPORTED THAT TWO OF THE JAPANESE FISHERMEN MOST SERIOUSLY AFFECTED NOW IN TOKYO UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL AND 21 OTHERS IN HOSPITAL AT YAIZU. THE FISHING SHIP, FUKURYU MARU, WAS ANCHORED OFF A PIER

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

15

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CJTF-7

3

3-19-54

AT YAIZU AND ACCESS GUARDED BY JAPANESE AUTHORITIES. ALLISON REPORTS THAT THE INCIDENT CONTINUES TO DOMINATE JAPANESE PRESS AND DIET DEBATES WITH EXTREME EMOTIONALISM. HE FURTHER REPORTS "OBVIOUS JAPANESE SCIENTISTS HAVE BEEN GIVEN FULL ACCESS AND SUFFICIENT TIME FOR INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIONS PRIOR SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION WITH UNITED STATES. THEIR INVESTIGATIONS APPARENTLY BEGAN WITH ARRIVAL VESSEL AND CONSIDERABLY BEFORE EMBASSY RECEIVED NOTICE OF INCIDENT OR INSTRUCTIONS. PRESS HAS SUGGESTED NATURE OF NUCLEAR OR THERMONUCLEAR WEAPON CAN BE DETERMINED BY ANALYSIS ASH AN PRINTED TODAY HYPOTHESIS OF HYDROGEN BOMB BUILT WITH LITHIUM. THEORETICAL COMPETENCE JAPANESE SCIENTISTS HIGH, AND IT IS PROBABLE THEY WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE WHATEVER INFORMED DEDUCTIONS POSSIBLE."

7. ON MARCH 18, JAPANESE MINISTER IN WASHINGTON LEFT "INFORMAL" NOTE WITH DEPARTMENT OF STATE SETTING FORTH ITS UNDERSTANDING OF THE CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS AND ASKING SERIES OF QUESTIONS INCLUDING METHODS TAKEN TO ISSUE WARNINGS AHEAD OF SHOT. DEPARTMENT DOES NOT INTEND TO RESPOND TO NOTE UNTIL ALL FACTS HAVE BEEN REPORTED BY THE AMBASSADOR.

8. ON MARCH 19, AMBASSADOR REPORTED TO WASHINGTON THAT HE HAD ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT WHICH HAD BEEN COMMUNICATED TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE: "I HAVE BEEN PLEASED TO LEARN OF THE PROMPT ACTION WHICH IS BEING TAKEN BY BOTH JAPANESE AND AMERICAN AUTHORITIES TO PROVIDE THE MOST EFFECTIVE POSSIBLE MEDICAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THOSE AFFECTED BY THE ACCIDENT WHICH BEFELL THE FUKURYU MARU. THIS ASSISTANCE IS BEING OFFERED OUT OF HUMANITARIAN CONCERN FOR THE INJURED CREW MEMBERS AND CONCERN FOR THE PUBLIC SAFETY. I WISH TO REINFORCE THE ASSURANCES ALREADY GIVEN THAT UNITED STATES CIVILIAN AND MILITARY PERSONNEL AND

DOE ARCHIVES

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

16

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CJTF-7

4

3-19-54

FACILITIES IN JAPAN ARE AVAILABLE TO GIVE THE GREATEST POSSIBLE DEGREE OF ASSISTANCE TO THE JAPANESE AUTHORITIES, WHO HAVE ALREADY SHOWN THEMSELVES ALERT AND VIGOROUS IN DEALING WITH THE PROBLEM. OUR JOINT INVESTIGATIONS OF THE INCIDENT ARE ALREADY WELL UNDER WAY AND WILL, I BELIEVE, LEAD TO FINDINGS WHICH WE CAN BOTH ACCEPT. IN ADVANCE OF THOSE FINDINGS, I AM AUTHORIZED TO MAKE CLEAR THAT THE UNITED STATES IS PREPARED TO TAKE SUCH STEPS AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO INSURE FAIR AND JUST COMPENSATION IF THE FACTS SO WARRANT." PARAGRAPH. IN ADDITION, HE REPORTED THAT MORTON AND MEEKS ARE FLYING TO YAIJU TO INSPECT HOSPITALIZED SAILORS AND VESSEL AND "PRELIMINARY REPORTS OF ABCC DOCTORS INDICATE DEGREE INJURIES SUFFERED MAY BE LESS THAN HAS BEEN REPORTED." PARAGRAPH. OUR SUGGESTED REVISION OF STATEMENT IS AS FOLLOWS:

"THE ROUTINE TESTS NOW UNDERWAY AT THE PACIFIC PROVING GROUNDS ARE CONCERNED WITH THE MOST RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN ATOMIC EXPLOSIVES. RESULTS TO DATE HAVE BEEN OF GREAT VALUE AND SIGNIFICANCE, SUBSTANTIALLY ADDING TO OUR KNOWLEDGE OF ATOMIC WEAPONS AND TO OUR READINESS.

"THE EXPLOSIVE YIELD FROM A DEVICE RECENTLY TESTED WAS GREATER THAN THAT OF ANY PREVIOUSLY DETONATED. THIS IS IN ACCORD WITH THE RECORD OF PREVIOUS TEST SERIES, EACH OF WHICH HAS REGULARLY SURPASSED THE RESULTS OF EARLIER ONES. OUR CONSTANT AIM IS TO OBTAIN THE MAXIMUM EFFICIENCY POSSIBLE FROM NUCLEAR MATERIAL, NOT ONLY IN ORDER THAT OUR ARMED FORCES MAY BE EQUIPPED WITH THE MOST EFFECTIVE WEAPONS, BUT ALSO BECAUSE SUCH RESEARCH IS A POSITIVE WAY OF LEARNING WHAT A POSSIBLE ENEMY MIGHT BE CAPABLE OF DIRECTING AGAINST US.

DOE ARCHIVES

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CJTF-7

5

3-19-54

"THE FIRST REPORT OF RADIATION INJURY TO A SMALL NUMBER OF RESIDENTS ON ADJACENT ISLANDS WAS EXAGGERATED. AS THE ABC HAS PREVIOUSLY STATED, GENERAL CLARKSON, COMMANDING THE TASK FORCE WHICH IS CONDUCTING THE TESTS, EVACUATED THE 236 RESIDENTS AND 28 TASK FORCE PERSONNEL SO SITUATED AND ALL ARE UNDER CAREFUL MEDICAL OBSERVATION AT KWAJALEIN. IN MEDICAL OPINION NO PERMANENT HARM TO THEM IS INDICATED. IN DUE COURSE THE RESIDENTS WILL BE RETURNED TO THEIR HOMES AND TASK FORCE PERSONNEL TO DUTY.

"I HAVE BEEN DEEPLY CONCERNED OVER THE REPORTS THAT SOME JAPANESE FISHERMEN HAVE SUFFERED INJURY DURING THE COURSE OF THE TESTS. OUR AMBASSADOR IN JAPAN IS CONDUCTING AN INVESTIGATION IN COOPERATION WITH THE JAPANESE AUTHORITIES TO OBTAIN ALL THE FACTS AND AMERICAN AUTHORITIES IN JAPAN ARE ASSISTING IN PROVIDING EFFECTIVE MEDICAL AND TECHNICAL AID TO THOSE AFFECTED BY THE ACCIDENT. THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR HAS INFORMED THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN THAT THE UNITED STATES IS PREPARED TO TAKE SUCH STEPS AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO INSURE FAIR AND JUST COMPENSATION IF THE FACTS SO WARRANT.

"NOTIFICATION OF DANGER AREA AROUND THE PACIFIC PROVING GROUNDS WAS GIVEN TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN 1947 AND THEREAFTER AS CHANGES OCCURRED. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE ENTIRE AREA SURROUNDING BIKINI AND ENIWETOK ATOLLS HAS BEEN PUBLICLY POSTED AS A DANGER AREA FOR SOME YEARS. RECENTLY THE DANGER AREA HAS BEEN AGAIN EXTENDED TAKING INTO ACCOUNT OUR LATEST EXPERIENCE. NOTIFICATION TO ALL SHIPPING WAS DISSEMINATED 20 MARCH 1954. DANGER AREA NOTICES HAVE BEEN AND ARE SPECIFICALLY DEFINED IN AIR AND MARINE NAVIGATIONAL PUBLICATIONS.

DOE ARCHIVES

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

18

CJTF-7

6

3-19-54

OUR TASK FORCE ON ITS OWN INITIATIVE CONDUCTS AN ELABORATE AND CONTINUOUS SURVEY OF THE DANGER AREA AND APPROPRIATE ADJACENT AREAS BY AIR. SUCH A VISUAL AND RADAR SEARCH WAS CONDUCTED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THIS TEST AND IF THE VESSEL WAS IN THE AREA IT WAS NOT DETECTED. I AM INFORMED THAT AFTER THE SHOT A SPECIAL SEARCH IN THE PATH OF THE RADIOACTIVE CLOUD AND EXTENDING WELL BEYOND THE AREA AND THE AREA OF ANY SIGNIFICANT FALLOUT DID NOT FIND ANY SHIPPING.

"THE TESTS ARE CONTINUING AS PLANNED."

NOTE: YOUR USE OF HYDROGEN IN THE FIRST PARAGRAPH IS A DEPARTURE FROM THE POLICY FOLLOWED IN YOUR PREVIOUS RELEASES ON THIS TEST SERIES, WHICH USED ATOMIC RATHER THAN HYDROGEN. REVISION HAS MADE THIS CONSISTENT WITH PREVIOUS RELEASES. NUCLEAR PROBABLY WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO EITHER HYDROGEN OR ATOMIC. ADVISE WHETHER YOU PREFER THIS TO BE REFERRED TO PRESIDENT AS YOUR REPORT OR AS A SUGGESTED STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT. IT COULD BE USED AS EITHER PARAGRAPH. FOR YOUR INFO MR. COLLINS QUESTION TODAY WHEN STATE DEPARTMENT RELEASE CONCERNING PROPOSAL TO USE WAS MADE WHY HE HAD NOT BEEN KEPT INFORMED AND INITIALLY HE ALSO ASKED FOR COPY OF PROPOSAL. AT MY REQUEST TRAPPEN INFORMED HIM SECRETARY OF STATE WAS CARRYING THE BALL WITH YOUR ADVICE. COLL THEN WITHDREW HIS REQUEST FOR COPY OF PROPOSAL. HOWEVER HE OR OTHER MEMBERS OF THE JCAB MAY RAISE THE ISSUE AGAIN. WE HAVE NO PRIOR INDICATION THAT RELEASE WAS TO BE MADE TODAY. I READ ABOUT IT IN THE NEWSPAPERS. EARLY NEWS BULLETIN AS FOLLOWS:

DOE ARCHIVES

3-19-54

[REDACTED]

"BULLETIN WASHINGTON (AP) — THE UNITED STATES PROPOSED TO RUSSIA TODAY " A
CONCRETE PLAN TO FURTHER THE PEACEFUL DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF AT MIC ENERGY."
PARAGRAPH. THE PLAN WAS HANDED TO SOVIET AMBASSADOR GEORGI N. ZARUBIN BY
SECRETARY OF STATE DULLES IN A FIVE MINUTE MEETING IN DULLES OFFICE. PARAGRAPH.
A STATE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCEMENT SAID ALSO THAT RUSSIA HAS GIVEN THE UNITED STATES
"CERTAIN PROPOSALS" ON ATOMIC PROBLEMS, AND THAT THESE ARE UNDER STUDY. PRESUMABLY
THE SOVIET PROPOSALS ARE FOR SOME KIND OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT TO BAN ATOMIC
WEAPONS. PARAGRAPH. THE PLAN GIVEN TO ZARUBIN BY DULLES IS A DETAILED PROGRAM
FOR CARRYING OUT THE PROPOSAL PRESIDENT EISENHOWER MADE IN AN ADDRESS TO THE
UNITED NATIONS DEC. 8 FOR AN INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC POOL UNDER A WORLDWIDE ATOMIC
ENERGY AGENCY. THE BASIC PROVISIONS OF THE PROPOSAL ARE:

1. THAT THE UNITED STATES, RUSSIA, AND OTHER ATOMIC POWERS INCLUDING BRITAIN
AND FRANCE SHOULD SET UP AN INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY.
2. EACH OF THE POWERS WOULD MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM ITS STOCKPILES OF
URANIUM AND OTHER ATOMIC MATERIALS TO A POOL UNDER THIS AGENCY.
3. THE AGENCY WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR STORING AND SAFEGUARDING THIS
MATERIAL, PREVENTING SURPRISE SEIZURE BY A BANDIT NATION BENT UPON ATOMIC WAR.
4. THE AGENCY WOULD BE AUTHORIZED TO MOBILIZE THE WORLD'S ATOMIC EXPERTS
TO DEVELOP THE USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY FOR ELECTRICAL POWER IN POWER STARVED AREAS
OF THE WORLD AND FOR OTHER PEACEFUL PURPOSES.

TODAY'S STATE DEPARTMENT STATEMENT RECALLED THAT DULLES HAD DISCUSSED
"PROCEDURAL MATTERS" ON THE ATOMIC PROBLEM WITH ZARUBIN LAST JANUARY PRIOR TO
THE BERLIN BIG-FOUR CONFERENCE, AND THAT HE ALSO HAD TWO PRIVATE TALKS WITH

Classification: Confirmed
Or Changed To
By Authority Of
Date 11/19/97

DOE ARCHIVES

20

[REDACTED]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
CJTF-7

8

3-19-54

SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER MOLOTOV AT BERLIN.

"IN THESE TALKS AT BERLIN," THE ANNOUNCEMENT SAID, "IT WAS AGREED THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR ITS PART WOULD SHORTLY TRANSMIT TO THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT IN WRITING A CONCRETE PLAN TO FURTHER THE PEACEFUL DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF ATOMIC ENERGY.

"THIS PROPOSAL HAS NOW BEEN PREPARED BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IN CONSULTATION WITH OTHER FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED. A COPY OF THE PROPOSAL WAS HANDLED TODAY TO THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR BY THE SECRETARY."

THIS MEANT THAT THE ATOMIC TALKS HAVE DEFINITELY MOVED NOW FROM WHAT DIPLOMATS CALL THE "PROCEDURAL" PHASE INTO THE "SUBSTANTIVE" PHASE.

IN SHORT, THE UNITED STATES AND RUSSIA ARE NO LONGER TALKING ABOUT HOW TO NEGOTIATE. THEY ARE NOW ACTUALLY NEGOTIATING ON THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY PROBLEM END RLF MA:VCH

K. D. Nichols
General Manager

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
DOE ARCHIVES