

Boat Hit By Atomic Ash OKd

BY ROBERT SCHAKNE

TOKYO, March 18 (Thursday). — (INS) — A team of eight scientists today carefully examined the tuna boat Fukuryu Maru in which a rain of radioactive dust fell on 23 Japanese fishermen following the March 1 nuclear test in the Marshall Islands.

The scientists said it would not be necessary to destroy the boat and added that 21 of the men showered with the atomic ashes probably would recover in 2 months.

SERIOUSLY ILL

The other fishermen were reported seriously ill and were transferred to the Tokyo University Hospital from the port of Yaizu where the fishing boat docked. But the scientists said neither of these men received a fatal dose of radiation. All the other stricken fishermen remained hospitalized at Yaizu.

NEAR-HYSTERIA

Meantime, near-hysteria gripped Japan in the wake of the incident and 36 persons stricken with food poisoning in Yokohama were believed to have eaten radioactive fish from the Fukuryu Maru until the Government Health Center traced the cause of the poisoning to another source.

Scientists also examined the boat's tuna cargo and pronounced it fit for human consumption.

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Japan Calls All Boats In for Check

By United Press

TOKYO, March 18.—A second Japanese fishing boat, this one 800 miles from the test site when the United States exploded an earth-rocking hydrogen device March 1, today was discovered to be radioactive.

The Japanese government promptly ordered all fishing craft operating in the Pacific at the time of the tremendous explosion to put into designated segregation ports, where ships, men and their catches can be checked for contamination.

Twenty-three Japanese fishermen, burned by a shower of radioactive ash that fell on another fishing boat 80 miles from the Marshall Islands test site, are under medical observation. They are being given emergency treatment by United States and Japanese medical experts for severe burns.

Tuna Market Glutted

Japanese fish markets are glutted with unsold tuna. Panicky Japanese have refused to buy the seafood delicacy since the catch of one of the two fishing vessels was found to be contaminated dangerously by radiation.

The Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry today ordered all Japanese fishing craft to put into one of the designated ports for a check by Geiger counters.

Inspectors boarded the 300-ton tuna boat Shunyo Maru after it arrived at Tokyo Bay Tuesday. Their Geiger counters clicked rapidly but they said radiation was not intense enough to be "dangerous."

Near Solomon Islands

The Shunyo Maru's captain said his ship's nearest approach to the Bikini Atoll testing ground was a point near the Solomon Islands, about 800 miles from "ground zero."

There was no immediate evidence that the Shunyo Maru's crew had been exposed to heavy radiation, as in the case of the 23 men on the other boat.

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