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Carl Wilson 4/1/85

SEP 9 1958

REVIEWED BY DATE

*Attachment #2 not included
HR Schmidt 4/25/85

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MEDICINE, HEALTH & SAFETY 3-8

MEMORANDUM FOR: CHAIRMAN MOORE
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GENERAL MANAGER

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SUBJECT: U.S. TEAM FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS REGARDING FALLOUT
ON JAPANESE SHIPS MADE PUBLIC IN JAPAN

On August 1, 1958 we transmitted to you a preliminary report on the incident of suspected radioactivity on the Japanese International Geophysical Year ships, Takuyo (Takuyu) Maru and Satsuma (Satuma) Maru. The lengthy final report is now on file in the Division of Biology and Medicine, entitled Documentary Report on Japanese International Geophysical Year Ships Takuyu Maru and Satuma Maru. This final report differs in only a few minor respects from our previous memorandum.

The U.S. Embassy in Tokyo requested that pertinent subject matter from the U.S. team's preliminary report be made public in Japan. After certain deletions from the report, that did not alter its meaning, the report was made public in Japan on or about August 15, 1958. A copy of both texts are attached.

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326 US ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
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C. L. Dunham
C. L. Dunham, M. D., Director
Division of Biology and Medicine

Alfred D. Starbird
Brigadier General, USA
Director of Military Application

2 Attachments:

1. Copy of report re U.S. team findings made public in Japan

2. Unedited copy of above report

OFFICE ▶		DMA, Test	DBM	DMA:GJKeto	DM:ADStarb:
SURNAME ▶		<i>Meritt</i>	<i>Kelley</i>	<i>Kelley</i>	<i>Starb</i>
DATE ▶		9/5/58	9/3/58	9/5/58	9/5/58

DMA:GJS Stewart
Stewart
9/5/58

U. S. TEAM FINDINGS MADE PUBLIC IN JAPAN REGARDING CREWS OF
SATSUMA MARU AND TAKUYO MARU

Complete examination of both vessels revealed essentially only background radiation dose rate level on exposed decks and equipment. Readings in all enclosed spaces above and below decks were lower than background. External background readings taken ashore were 0.06-0.07 milliroentgens per hour, beta and gamma.

In view of the above findings, no further decontamination procedures were considered necessary or advised. (As a note of interest, a brass colored fuse setting ring and gun sight on the same gun the Satsuma showed 10 milliroentgen per hour, beta and gamma, and a 1.2 gamma only milliroentgen per hour reading. Both of these were covered by canvas during the entire voyage. The Satsuma Captain humorously offered the information that this metal was of United States origin.

Upon arrival at Rabaul, two people were examined by Dr. Hassler at the request of Takuyo Maru's physician. These individuals were not considered to have radiation sickness by Dr. Hassler or by us following our later examination.

Our complete examinations were done on July 26 on 12 persons from each ship including the seven persons done repeatedly by Dr. Hassler and five others chosen for the lowest white blood cell counts reported by the Japanese physicians and/or Dr. Hassler. Complete medical histories and complete physical examinations were done, including personnel monitoring for radiation contamination and any evidence of beta injury. Blood examinations included red and white cell counts, smears for white cell differential examination being forwarded to Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, Washington, D. C. Sahli (sic) hemoglobin done, venous blood on seven people and 24 hour urines on seven being forwarded to Lt. Col. James Hartgering, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, for possible evidence of radioactivity.

Our on the spot blood examinations show as follows: The two individuals referred to in paragraph 4 had, respectively, hemoglobin, red blood count and white blood count of 108 percent, 5.2 million and 4700 and 76 percent, 3.16 million and 5700. Previous white blood count differential showed, respectively polymorphs, 55 percent and lymphocytes, 38 percent, monocytes, 4 percent; polymorphs, 63 percent, lymphocytes, 29 percent and monocytes, 8 percent. Urines negative except for few pus cells per high power field. Both had good appetites and no specific complaints. Only other hemoglobin reading under 82 percent was one of 80 percent. In all, four red blood cell counts under 4.5 million, 9 over 5 million, and remaining one between 4.5 and 5 million.

Our white blood cell counts on July 26 show only one below 4100 (3350), and we have no explanation for this. His hemoglobin was 106 percent and red blood count 4.63 million. No complaints and physical examination essentially negative. For remainder, read two columns as follows: Column One; 4100, 4200, 4300, 4400, 4500, 4600, 4700, 5000 to 7500, 7500 to 9000, 9000 to 11,800; Column Two: One each, one each, zero each, two each, one each, one each, one each, six each, seven each and three each.

Medical summary and conclusions: A. There is no evidence at this time of any detectible effects resulting from exposure to ionizing radiation. B. There was no detectible evidence of radiation contamination of personnel at the time of examination. C. There have been no cases of radiation sickness on either vessel. Any complaints of illness subsequent to July 14 were due to other causes, for example, infectious hepatitis or other intercurrent illnesses. D. There will be no detectible effects resulting from the minimal radiation exposure experienced.

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