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JUL 29 1958

Mr. James T. Hickey
 Executive Director
 Joint Committee on Atomic Energy
 Congress of the United States

CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED
 AUTHORITY: DOE-DPC
 BY R.G. BOGER DATE: 3/2/86
 J. Diaz 2/17/87

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Dear Mr. Hickey:

We were informed on July 21 through our Ambassador in Tokyo that the Japanese ship TAIYO MARU has reported that it received radiation above background on the 14th of July. The ship's reported position at that time was some 700 miles west of Bikini. This location is some 150 miles west of the western boundary of the Eniwetok Proving Ground Danger Area.

The ship sailed from that position to the Port of Rabaul. The ship reported that as of July 18, 10 crew members had blood counts of between 2,000 and 4,000 and that all of these counts had fallen from 30 to 40 percent below July 18 readings. Japanese Maritime Safety Board requested through the U.S. Ambassador to Tokyo that U.S. medical technicians and experts on decontamination be flown from Eniwetok to Rabaul.

The Commander of Joint Task Force 704 is preparing to dispatch an aircraft with requested team of medical and technical personnel from the Eniwetok Proving Ground to Rabaul.

Subsequent reports indicate that the situation aboard the TAIYO MARU is not at all serious. A message from the Tokyo Embassy of July 22 read in part: Japanese radiation experts consider current count not serious but would feel safer if boats inspected by our (U.S.) experts and further decontamination undertaken if necessary. Experts also estimate crew members have received at maximum 100 R and probably 20-30 R.

We will keep you advised of further developments.

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Sincerely yours,
 Signed Paul F. Foster
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EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING & DECLASSIFICATION

RECEIVED	7/1/58	MA:ADStarbird	DBM	Cong. Liaison	AGMA	Gen Mgr
OFFICE	Test	MA:ADStarbird	DBM	Cong. Liaison	AGMA	Gen Mgr
SURNAME	KFMusick/mr	Stewart	DBM	Cong. Liaison	AGMA	Gen Mgr
DATE	7/22/58	7/23/58	7/23/58	7/23/58	7/23/58	7/23/58