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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Files

DATE: April 23, 1954

FROM : John H. Stumpf, Recording Secretary

SUBJECT: COMMISSION ACTIONS CONCERNING RADIATION INCIDENT

SYMBOL: SECY:JHS

1. At Meeting 967 on March 16, 1954, the Commission took several actions concerning the first report of a radiation incident involving 23 Japanese seamen. The Commission requested that Mr. Hall arrange to have a message sent to the Ambassador in Tokyo which would contain the following points:

- a. Dr. Morton, ABCC, has been instructed to report to the Ambassador to offer his technical services and the assistance of the ABCC.
- b. Colonel Arthur Meeks, USAF, has also been instructed to report to the Ambassador and offer technical assistance.
- c. Other countries should not have access to the ship. (To facilitate this the U.S. would offer to decontaminate the vessel)
- d. A warning to ships has been issued. Specific information on this matter will be supplied to the Ambassador as soon as possible.

The Commission also requested Col. Huston to obtain (1) precise information regarding the decision as to what constitutes the danger zone and what warning had been posted to shipping, and (2) what statements had been made to the U.N. pertaining to atomic tests in the Marshall Islands. The Commission also:

Agreed to request the Departments of State and Defense and JTF-7 to designate members of a committee to study and make recommendations on developments in the current test series.

2. Various actions to implement this decision were taken immediately by the staff, as indicated in Section 5 of the minutes of Meeting 968 held on March 17, 1954.

3. At that time it did not appear to be necessary or desirable to request the staff to provide copies of implementing papers for the Secretariat files.

cc: General Manager
Asst. GM. for Research and Industrial Development
Director, Military Application
Director, Special Projects
Director, Biology and Medicine

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