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STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Chuck Dunham DATE: August 17, 1959

FROM : Bob Boss

SUBJECT: Articles appearing in Japanese papers on radiation.

Are you still interested in such topics? If so, we will be happy to send more.

Enclosure:

Translations of articles appearing in Japanese newspapers.

57-901-Army-AG Admin Cen-Japan-60M

YOMIURI (2/3 Summary) PRIVACY ACT MATERIAL REMOVED August 11, 1959

New Theory on Radiation Sickness

Sadae YOSHIKAWA, Director of the Mito Hospital of the Hitachi Seisaku (manufacturing) Co., and Kazuo HOSOYA, chief of the research and inspection section of the Mito State Hospital, who have been conducting radiation injury tests on mice since Aug. 4 in the cobalt 60 irradiation room of the Japan Atomic Energy Institute at Tokai-mura, Naka-gun, Ibaraki prefecture, announced on Aug. 10 that the first cause for death due to strong radiation is the septicemia accompanying serious leukopenia and that blood transfusion and the use of antibiotics are proper for the treatment of radiation sickness. This assertion is quite contrary to the established theory that the direct cause for radiation death lies in the lowering of hematogenic functions by the destruction of the liver and the marrow.

When , a crew member of No. 5 Fukuryu Maru which was showered with radioactive dust at Bikini, died in September, 1954, American medical circles said he may have died of septicemia caused by a blunder committed in blood transfusion. The tests conducted by the two Japanese doctors, however, have proved that septicemia is caused directly by radiation. This will endorse the Japanese contention that was killed by an H-bomb test.

YOSHIKAWA and HOSOYA are scheduled to release the details of the results of their tests at the medical gathering of the sanitarium of the state hospital to be held early October this year and at the radiation therapists' meeting scheduled for February next year.

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PRIVACY ACT MATERIAL REMOVED

YOMIURI (Full) PRIVACY ACT MATERIAL REMOVED August 12, 1959

Takuyo's Crew to Be Kept Under Observation

The medical subcommittee (chairman - Superintendent TSUZUKI of the Japan Red Cross Central Hospital) of the Investigation and Liaison Council on Atomic Bomb Damages met at the Maritime Safety Agency yesterday afternoon to study the data obtained by a health examination conducted at the Agency's Hydrographic Division on the 62 crew members of the MSA observation ship, Takuyo, for possible radiation injury. The Takuyo had been doused with radioactive fallout last summer and her chief engineer 34, recently died of leukemia.

Following the meeting, the medical subcommittee announced that no symptom of radiation disease has so far been found in the crew's health conditions but that, in consideration of various factors, it is desirable that the crew members be placed under continued observation. The meeting was attended by Dr. TSUZUKI, chairman of the subcommittee, Superintendent KURIYAMA of the Tokyo Daiichi Hospital, Superintendent MIYOSHI of the Sanraku Hospital, Honorary Professor NAKAIZUMI and Professors MIYAKE and MIYAKAWA of the Tokyo University, Professor KAKEI of the Chiba University, Director KOYAMA of the Tokyo Daiichi Hospital's Internal Medicine Department and officials in charge from the Welfare Ministry and the Maritime Safety Agency. The subcommittee at the same time told the Maritime Safety Agency authorities that the Takuyo's crew may resume normal sea duties.

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ASAHI (1/2 Summary) August 11, 1959

Radiation Is Injurious Though Small in Quantity

The Special Radiation Effect Research Committee (Chairman: Masao TSUZUKI) of the Japan Science Council on Aug. 10 announced the outcome of its study on new tolerance standards for radiation. In this announcement, the Committee clarified these points: 1) Radiation is injurious even if it is small in quantity, and 2) radiation has a hereditarily unfavorable effect even if its quantity is below the new tolerance level. The Committee hopes that the Central Radiation Council of the Prime Minister's Office will try to legalize the new tolerance standards for radiation depending on the people's reaction to the Committee's announcement. The main points of the Committee's announcement follow:

1. The International Committee of Radiation Prevention (ICRP) recommendation sets the maximum tolerable limit of radiation for professional workers over 18 at five rems a year. This means a reduction of the maximum tolerable limit of radiation from 0.3 to 0.1 rems a week. There are no scientific grounds for supporting this opinion.

2. An increase in radiation will bring about an increase in the number of cases such as still-birth, the death of babies immediately after birth, the death of infants, and the birth of deformed children. In the ICRP's opinion, Japan which has a population of 90,000,000 will see the number of hereditarily disfigured persons increased by an annual average of 3,100. However, this figure will be 10,500 when the number of cases such as still-birth and the death of babies is included.

In this connection, Yoshio HIYAMA, professor at Tokyo University, says, "The ICRP does not have legal power. Japanese scholars concerned about 'death' ashes are taking a more serious view of the unfavorable effect of radiation than the ICRP. The characteristic of the Special Radiation Effect Research Committee's recent report is that the findings of their research are incorporated in it."

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ASAHI (1/2 Summary) August 12, 1959

To Protect the People from Radiation

The Japan Science Council's Special Committee on Radiation Effects on Monday published a report on the results of its study of the recommendation of a new "maximum permissible limit" of radiation made by the International Committee on Radiation Protection last September.

The report which spells out the Committee's stand on accepting the newly recommended maximum permissible limit of radiation contains two highly noteworthy points. First, the report urges a radical change in the attitude on the "maximum permissible limit" of radiation that has been adopted so far, and proposes a far more rigid limit of radiation.

Secondly, the report puts special emphasis on the grave hereditary effects of radiation. The report says that the newly recommended permissible limit of radiation, though stricter than before, is unsatisfactory for Japan. This "warning" is understandable, considering the facts that Japan has a huge population, has a high degree of population density and has a lower standard of nutrition than the international level.

Human beings are now doing a terrible thing. They are destroying natural and stable matters and converting them into artificial and unstable ones. Unstable matters emanate radiation so as to revert to their original condition. It is a good thing to utilize this process to promote human interests, but it must be realized that this at the same time means that they are constantly creating a new environment unfit for their existence.

If the gravity of the matter is overlooked, human beings will be obliged to adapt themselves to a new environment in a process of "degeneration". An endeavor to utilize atomic energy must be backed up with steps to prevent this "degeneration".

The Japan Science Council report on radiation has provided ample food for thought. It is hoped that the authorities in charge of codifying the newly recommended radiation standards will fully scrutinize the report. At the same time, the people are urged to have a deeper understanding of the problem of radiation.

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