

C O P Y

404970

June 28, 1954

Dr. J. Heng Liu
c/o Chinese Consulate General
San Francisco, California

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Dear J. Heng:

Dr. John C. Bugher, Director of Division of Biology and Medicine of the Atomic Energy Commission, telephoned to me this afternoon in reply to a call I had made this morning to one of his assistants, Dr. Charles Dunham. Dr. Bugher had hoped that some of the technical people on his staff might be available to meet with you in San Francisco, Honolulu or Japan to give you any information that they could about the alleged instance of radioactivity among food fish in the markets in Formosa, but unfortunately none of the people he had in mind are so located at the moment that they could get to a meeting place with you at this moment. However, Dr. Bugher has suggested the names of people in Hawaii and in Tokyo to whom you might turn for advice. In Hawaii he recommends Dr. Hiatt of Fisheries Research at the University of Hawaii or Dr. Sette of the Fish and Wild Life Service in Hawaii. In Tokyo he suggests Dr. Tsuzuki, Emeritus Professor of Surgery at the Imperial University, who is well informed about the fisheries' situation; or Dr. Hiyama, also of the Imperial University, who is engaged in fishery research.

Dr. Bugher appreciates the importance of having a person like yourself informed of the facts in an area where rumors are so plentiful and facts so few, and he authorizes me to pass certain information on to you and to say that if he can be of any further assistance you have merely to write to him in Washington and he will send bulletins and other informative material. Dr. Bugher says that the idea of radioactive contamination of food fish in the Pacific basin apparently is based on the fact that one shipload of fish that was located much too close to the bomb site did become severely contaminated but this cargo was kept from the market and destroyed. Of the other alleged instances, those that Dr. Bugher's people have been able to run down have proved to be cases in which inexperienced people using delicate laboratory counters have described radioactivity which first of all was of such low grade as to be of no biological significance, and secondly was probably produced by the wrist-watches of those doing the measurements rather than the fish that were being measured.

Sincerely,

PCHodges/kmp

cc: Dr. John C. Bugher

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