

~~JAPAN - UNITED STATES~~
~~RADIOBIOLOGICAL CONFERENCE~~

~~Japan Science Council, Ueno, Tokyo~~
 Friday, November 19, 1954

~~FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE~~

The final day of the conference was devoted in the main to supplementing and rounding out the information on topics discussed during the preceding four days and reported earlier in these summaries.

Chairman for the morning session was Dr. Yakichi Noguchi of the Japanese delegation; for the afternoon session Dr. Willis R. Boss of the United States Delegation.

New material on the use of radio isotopes in agricultural research was presented by Dr. Sterling B. Hendricks of the United States Department of Agriculture. Some of the research procedures employed in the United States were portrayed in two motion pictures, "The Atom and Agriculture" and "The Atomic Greenhouse."

Dr. Hendricks, in outlining the uses of radioisotopes in agricultural research mentioned five general types of studies. They were:

- 1) Research on photo synthesis -- the process by which plants employ sun energy and substances drawn from the air and the soil to make human foods and animal feeds.
- 2) The genetics of plants and animals.
- 3) Technical studies on the sterilization of agricultural products by beta or gamma radiation, doing away with the use of heat for keeping down bacteriological spoilage of packaged and stored foods. Dr. Hendricks mentioned that processes using radiation for this "cold sterilization" have not been successfully developed on a commercial scale. It is a difficult problem but has a practical attraction and the research will continue at a growing rate.
- 4) Studies in the uptake of plant food elements applied to the soil such as potassium, calcium, zinc and molybdenum. These researches have given much new knowledge on the way in which these materials pass from soils into plants with resulting practical applications in rates, times and location in the row of fertilizers of various types to achieve the best results in plant growth with the most economical use of fertilizers.
- 5) Determining the amount of water in soil without disturbing the soil. This promises practical application to the regions of the United States where the water supply is inadequate for the best plant growth.

Dr. Hendricks reported also on experiments using radiation to suppress the sprouting of potatoes and enable them to be kept in storage and fit for consumption for longer periods than at present.

Luncheon was served at the Seiyoken Restaurant at Ueno Park, at which time, besides sandwiches, Japanese "sushi" made of tuna and other raw fish was also served and the entire United States members made a hearty meal of it. After lunch, "Nagauta" and Japanese "odori" (dancing) were presented by the lady members of the Tokyo Art University which attracted much interest and applause from the conference group.

The afternoon session started at 1:20 P.M. with Dr. Boss presiding. Dr. Boss explained the contamination of marine biological products and stated briefly the result of such studies in the United States.

The meeting concluded in late afternoon with expressions from Dr. Kimura of the Japan Science Council and Dr. Pearson of the United States Atomic Energy Commission. The texts of these closing remarks are being distributed separately.