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Japan

New Atomic Film Promises to Stimulate Further  
Popular Interest



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"Ashes of Death", a twenty minute feature film produced by Shin Riken company and now being distributed throughout Japan, is based on the Fukuryu Maru incident, the research voyage of the Shinketsu Maru and the contamination hazards to which Japan allegedly is now exposed. In addition, the film utilizes frequent flashbacks to Hiroshima, Nagasaki and the postwar US test series. According to a US Embassy report the film demonstrates excellent technique and is an illustration of atomic morbidity, emotionalism and pseudo-scientific propaganda which have strained US-Japanese relations since the Bikini incident."

It is obvious from the description of the content of the film as well as from the Embassy's comments that the picture will serve to further stimulate public interest and to prolong the strain which the Fukuryu Maru incident and related developments have placed on US-Japanese relations. Moreover, despite the lapse of almost four months since the Bikini incident touched off a nationwide reaction, press comment remains at a high level and tends to emphasize the most sensational aspects of developments as well as to print exaggerated and inaccurate accounts of the effects of atomic energy. In addition, the continued passage of resolutions and circulation of petitions by private organizations calling for the banning of atomic weapons

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and tests is indicative of the sustained public interest in the  
problem of atomic energy.



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