

D25

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
of the
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

408046

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~OFFICIAL INFORMATION~~

American Embassy,
Tokyo, Japan,
September 8, 1954

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Dear Noel:

George Morgan has asked me to reply to your letter of August 25 with reference to the questions that Merrill Eisenbud raised with you. I am very pleased to do so, the more particularly since all of us retain a deep sense of appreciation for Merrill's great assistance and unfailing helpfulness to us during his stay in Tokyo at the peak of the Fukuryu Maru incident.

With regard to his specific questions:

1. The air-sampling equipment, which was sent to Tokyo in response to the original expressions of Japanese interest in our techniques and which was stored in the Embassy pending a decision on the Japanese side as to whether they wished to request this equipment, has remained in the Embassy. Although we have mentioned the availability of this equipment on two occasions to the Foreign Office, no request for it has been made. Had it been delivered to the Japanese, the Department and the AEC would of course have been notified promptly. I think we must assume that the Japanese themselves have obtained, or have developed, satisfactory equipment for this purpose and are engaged in whatever sampling they consider useful. This is only an inference based on the fairly extensive knowledge the Japanese seem to have unclassified matters in this field and on their intense interest in the meteorological effects of nuclear energy. We have just received the Department's Instruction A-142, which instructs us to utilize the equipment for our

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW
SINGLE REVIEW AUTHORIZED BY: [Signature]
REVIEWER (ADD): [Signature]
NAME: [Signature]
DATE: [Date]
1. DETERMINATION (CIRCLE NUMBER(S))
2. CLASSIFICATION RETAINED
3. CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:
4. CONTAINS NO DOE CLASSIFIED INFO
5. COORDINATE WITH: [Signature]
6. CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED
7. CLASSIFIED INFO BRACKETED

Noel Hemmendinger, Esquire,
Acting Deputy Director,
Office of Northeast Asian Affairs,
Department of State,
Washington.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW	
[Signature]	[Signature]
[Signature]	[Signature]
[Date]	[Date]
7. OTHER (SPECIFY): [Signature]	

24630

9404251
3/8/96

MILITARY RESEARCH & APPL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

COPY

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

- 2 -

own collection purposes, and we shall proceed to set up the requisite stations.

2 (a) The Embassy's telegram No. 531 has reported the despatch of another set of urine samples from the fishermen. The Japanese were most cooperative in this matter, and the delay was entirely on our side, and occasioned by difficulties the ABCC encountered in obtaining an acceptable kind of container (and in negotiating, through the FEC bureaucracy, air freight facilities).

(b) We believe there is no doubt that the data provided in Mr. Eisenbud's letters to Dr. Kobayashi, communicating the results of previous urine analyses, have been of great value in refuting Japanese statements about the absorption of Strontium-90. Since the delivery of these letters, the Japanese have ceased entirely their press statements concerning the future effects of Strontium-90; no reference to Strontium-90 from any source has in fact been detected in the Japanese press in recent weeks. We would think this owes entirely to the radiological analyses of the AEC Laboratory.

In general, so far as channels of communication on atomic energy matters between the United States and Japan are concerned, we would think it preferable for our transactions to be handled on a government-to-government basis. This does not of course preclude correspondence between officials of the AEC Commission and Japanese Government or private scientists, particularly when the subject involved is scientific and technical. (The Embassy would of course, in these instances, be grateful for copies of the correspondence for its information and for its substantive and biographic guidance). However, I feel certain that the Ambassador believes that when negotiations have been opened, or are under discussion between the Embassy and the Foreign Office on any subject that private correspondence from officials of the United States Government to counterparts in Japan is undesirable. And we have no doubt that the Foreign Office shares this view.

I hope you will not fail to extend my warmest regards to Merrill Eisenbud the next time you see him.

Sincerely,

William Leonhart
First Secretary of Embassy