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REPOSITORY NASA College Park
COLLECTION 326 (The J. Sterling Cole)
BOX No. 63-326-43 (10)
FOLDER 3 Radiation

ISI:OLD

Honorable W. Sterling Cole
Chairman
Joint Committee on Atomic Energy
Congress of the United States

Dear Mr. Cole:

The Japanese Government on June 11, 1954, invited the United States Government to send scientific representatives aboard the research ship, Shunkotsu Maru, for an oceanographic survey studying radioactive contamination in the Pacific possibly resulting from the March 1, 1954, detonation. The invitation was accepted and Dr. W. R. Boss, Division of Biology and Medicine, AEC, and Dr. Lauren Donaldson, Professor of Marine Biology, University of Washington, and contractor to the AEC, traveled to Japan.

Both for practical and diplomatic reasons Drs. Boss and Donaldson did not join the Shunkotsu Maru but rather, with the concurrence of the U. S. Embassy, Tokyo, remained in Tokyo for the purpose of conferring with senior Japanese scientists on the subject of radioactive contamination of tuna.

While in Japan Drs. Boss and Donaldson were approached by Japanese scientists on the possibility of a joint United States - Japanese scientific conference to be held at a later date of a scientific scope much broader than radioactive contamination of tuna. It was also apparent to Drs. Boss and Donaldson that the Japanese were very much in need of scientific assistance in the whole field of radiobiology.

Subsequently, a formal invitation was extended by the Japanese Science Council through diplomatic channels requesting subject conference. The invitation was accepted by Dr. John C. Hughes, Director, Division of Biology and Medicine, AEC, having determined in advance that the conference had the concurrence of the Department of State and the U. S. Embassy in Tokyo.

It should be noted that while the conference is scientific in nature, it has predominate diplomatic overtones insofar as the United States is concerned, namely, relieving tension resulting from reported

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Honorable W. Sterling Cole

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radioactive contamination of fish and to combat anti-American sentiment in Japan by establishing friendly and effective scientific relationships.

The conference has now been scheduled for November 15 through 20, 1954. The agenda is wholly unclassified covering in general the areas of maximum permissible doses, previously published data on movement of radioactive isotopes in soils and uptake by plants and animals, standardization of apparatus, methods of measuring radioactivity, and the application of radioisotopes in agricultural and biological research.

Attending for the United States are the following:

Merril Eisenbud, New York Operations Office
John Harley, New York Operations Office
Morse Sallsbury, Division of Information Services
Paul B. Pearson, Division of Biology and Medicine
W. R. Boss, Division of Biology and Medicine
W. D. Claus, Division of Biology and Medicine
Sterling H. Hendricks, U. S. Department of Agriculture

We will advise the Committee of the results of the conference as soon as possible after the return of the United States delegation.

Sincerely yours,

K. W. Nichols
General Manager

cc: Gen. Mgr.
Cong. Comm. (2)
Secretariat ✓
Director, Information Services
Director, International Affairs

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