

INCOMING TELEGRAM

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USIA
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ARMY
AIR
NAVY

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 2683, May 1, 5 p.m.

PRIORITY

PASS BUGHER, AEC

Reference Department's 2355 and 2360

SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY
S/AE

MAY 1 1954

1. CJTF seven press release published here morning papers. Cannot determine from local accounts if textual changes made. Please advise whether original version correct.

2. Despite all efforts here and in Washington, FUKURYU MARU incident continues impose severe strain on US-Japan relations. Bad local press remains, and forces promoting Japanese neutralism and estrangement from US show no sign abating their efforts to exploit affair. Japanese Government has attempted restrain official expressions of animosity but has not exerted itself affirmatively to put incident in better perspective. Echoes of official doctors' original statement (Embassy's 2574) without its disavowal or revision appear to have reached number Far East countries.

3. What appears needed both in Japan and elsewhere is simple dramatic gesture which public can understand. CJTF seven announcement re US patients may provide this occasion and offer opportunity for reversal psychological climate here.

4. Unless major security considerations prevent, we recommend US issue public invitation (communicated privately to Japanese Government in advance) for group official Japanese doctors in charge FUKURYU MARU patients to visit Tripler Hospital at Honolulu to observe therapeutic techniques employed there to treat US enlisted men who suffered from same March 1 detonation. Our invitation could refer to our regret that US doctors in Japan were not permitted examine patients, point out obvious impossibility prescribing treatment at long range, and emphasize that next best assistance we can offer is observation our own treatment methods. We would hope Air Force could make available aircraft for special flight. If it can, we might offer places

to representatives

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-2- 2683, May 1, 5 p.m., from Tokyo

to representatives major Japanese newspapers, but in any event we would wish visit heavily covered by USIA and US wire services both for Japan and other Asian audiences.

5. If Department can obtain requisite US clearances for this offer, subsidiary themes that might be developed are:

A. US willingness make available to world biological and medical data in atomic energy field for well-being mankind.

B. US desire extend every possible facility to Japanese fishermen patients.

C. Implication that if FUKURYU MARU captain sdiyeaamy* had not been so secretive about accident but had reported it by wireless aboard vessel, US test area authorities could have picked up injured crewmen by helicopter and flown them to hospital in several hours where, with immediate care, they might now be as well on way recovery as US patients. This would also have forestalled ship's sale of contaminated catch and prevented Japanese tuna panic.

D. Japanese have not been world's only victims of March 1 explosion. (Revelation that Japan does not have medical monopoly of such patients may be as salutary for its doctors as for morbidly race-conscious public).

6. Embassy would undertake screen out political physicians from visiting party, and we would hope fullest facilities and complete clinical data would be given them during their stay Honolulu. It might be useful send Embassy officer with party both for local arrangements there and for appropriate follow through on return Japan nfxxbulven*. If Department approves idea, sooner can make announcement the better. If any delay involved, it would seem well worth while holding men at Tripler until arrival Japanese doctors.

ALLISON

EJH:RMG/1

*As received, verification of garbled portions has been requested.

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U.S. Atomic Energy Commission
Division of Biology & Medicine

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