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Mr. James T. Ramey
Executive Director
Joint Committee on Atomic Energy
Congress of the United States

JUL 22 1958

CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED
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BY R.G. ROGER DATE: 3/2/086

J Diaz 3/17/87

Dear Mr. Ramey:

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

We were informed on July 21 through our Ambassador in Tokyo that the Japanese ship TANJOYU MARU has reported that it received radiation above background on the 14th of July. The ship's reported position at that time was some 700 miles west of Bikini. This location is some 150 miles west of the western boundary of the Bikini Proving Ground Ranger Area.

The ship sailed from that position to the Port of Rabaul. The ship reported that as of July 18, 10 crew members had blood counts of between 2,000 and 4,000 and that all of these counts had fallen from 30 to 40 percent below July 17 readings. Japanese Maritime Safety Board requested through the U.S. Ambassador to Tokyo that U.S. medical technicians and experts on decontamination be flown from Bikini to Rabaul.

The Commander of Joint Task Force R.V. is preparing to dispatch an aircraft with requested team of medical and technical personnel from the Bikini Proving Ground to Rabaul.

Subsequent reports indicate that the situation aboard the TANJOYU MARU is not at all serious. A message from the Tokyo Embassy of July 22 read in part: "Japanese radiation experts consider current count not serious but would feel safer if boats inspected by our (U.S.) experts and further decontamination undertaken if necessary. Experts also estimate crew members have received at maximum 100 μ r and probably 20-30 μ r."

We will keep you advised of further developments.

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Incerely yours,

Signed Paul F. Foster
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