

~~SECRET~~

WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

PAGE 01 TOKYO 8304 DTG: 190727Z MAY 82 PSN: 034769
SIT055 DATE 05/24/82 TOR: 139/1118Z

DISTRIBUTION: REPT /001

WHTS ASSIGNED DISTRIBUTION:

SIT: CKLS EOB
EOB:
WHSR COMMENT: CHECKLIST

MESSAGE ANNOTATIONS:

NO MESSAGE ANNOTATIONS

MESSAGE:

IMMEDIATE
DE RUEHKO #8304 1390727
O 190727Z MAY 82
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1090

~~SECRET~~ TOKYO 08304
EXDIS

FOR SECRETARY HAIG FROM AMBASSADOR MANSFIELD
NSC FOR JUDGE CLARK
OSTP FOR DR. KEYWORTH
DOE FOR SECRETARY EDWARDS
STATE FOR UNDERSECRETARY KENNEDY
E.O. 12065: GDS, 5/19/80, (MANSFIELD, MICHAEL J.), OR-M
TAGS: TNUC, SCSA, JA
SUBJECT: NUCLEAR COOPERATION WITH JAPAN

1. ~~A~~ - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. AL, I AM DEEPLY CONCERNED BY THE LONG DELAY IN MOVING TOWARD A LONG TERM AGREEMENT WITH RESPECT TO U.S. APPROVAL OF NUCLEAR FUEL REPROCESSING IN JAPAN (INCLUDING THE TOKAI MURA PLANT). A NUMBER OF USG OFFICIALS INCLUDING MYSELF HAVE ASSURED THE JAPANESE THAT WE INTEND TO MOVE EXPEDITIOUSLY TO RESOLVE THIS ISSUE. THE SUBJECT WAS ALSO RAISED AT THE MEETING LAST MAY BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND THE PRIME MINISTER. THE TONE AND CONTENT OF THESE DISCUSSIONS LED THE JAPANESE, AND I THINK RIGHTFULLY SO, TO EXPECT EARLY ACTION. TO DATE, HOWEVER, THERE HAS BEEN NO PERCEPTIBLE PROGRESS FROM THE JAPANESE VANTAGE POINT, EXCEPT PERHAPS THE NEGATIVE STEPS REPRESENTED BY THE INTRODUCTION OF SEVERAL BILLS IN THE CONGRESS WHICH, IF ENACTED, WOULD MAKE EVEN MORE

MESSAGE (CONTINUED):

DIFFICULT THE RESOLUTION OF THIS ISSUE. WHILE THESE BILLS APPEAR UNLIKELY TO PASS, THEY NEVERTHELESS RAISE CONCERNS FOR THE JAPANESE, ESPECIALLY WHEN COUPLED WITH THEIR PERCEIVED LACK OF ACTION ON THE PART OF THE ADMINISTRATION. I RECOGNIZE THAT THE PLUTONIUM USE PAPER, WHICH IS A NECESSARY PRECURSOR TO RESOLVING THE JAPANESE REPROCESSING ISSUE, IS ABOUT READY TO GO TO THE PRESIDENT, HOWEVER, THE LONG DELAY IN GETTING TO THIS POINT IS BEGINNING TO REFLECT ON OUR CREDIBILITY.

3. THIS DELAY IS ESPECIALLY TROUBLING SINCE, IN MY VIEW, WE ARE AT A CRITICAL TURNING POINT IN OUR NUCLEAR COOPERATION WITH JAPAN. THE OPERATIONAL PROBLEMS AT THE TOKAI REPROCESSING PLANT, THE GROWING AWARENESS OF THE INCREASINGLY HIGH COSTS OF DEVELOPING THE BREEDER REACTOR AND CONCERN ABOUT THE ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

OF JAPANESE CENTRIFUGES FOR URANIUM ENRICHMENT VERSUS U.S. CENTRIFUGES IS CAUSING MANY JAPANESE NUCLEAR LEADERS TO QUESTION THE WISDOM OF THEIR PRESENT POLICY OF RELYING HEAVILY ON THE FRENCH IN THE REPROCESSING AREA AND PURSUING AN INDEPENDENT APPROACH IN THE BREEDER AND ENRICHMENT AREAS. A U.S. FIRM IS CURRENTLY BEING CONSIDERED FOR A MAJOR ROLE IN THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE SECOND JAPANESE REPROCESSING PLANT, AND THERE IS INCREASING INTEREST IN A COOPERATIVE EFFORT WITH THE U.S. TO DEVELOP JOINTLY A DEMONSTRATION BREEDER REACTOR. THERE IS EVEN TALK OF COOPERATION IN THE ENRICHMENT AREA ALTHOUGH THIS IS COMPLICATED BY THE CLASSIFICATION PROBLEMS AND MAY HAVE MORE IMMEDIATE IMPLICATIONS FOR JAPANESE SUPPORT OF OUR EFFORTS WITH AUSTRALIA ON URANIUM ENRICHMENT.

4. IN MY VIEW EXPANDED COOPERATION IN ANY OR ALL OF THESE AREAS WOULD BE EXTREMELY BENEFICIAL TO THE U.S. NUCLEAR PROGRAM AT THIS CRITICAL POINT IN ITS DEVELOPMENT. IT WOULD ALSO GIVE US THE ABILITY TO INFLUENCE THE DEVELOPMENT OF JAPAN'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM AND COULD PROVIDE ANOTHER IMPORTANT LINK BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

5. IF THE JAPANESE ARE TO CONSIDER THE U.S. AS A POSSIBLE PARTNER IN THEIR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR ENERGY, HOWEVER, WE MUST ACT QUICKLY TO PUT OUR OWN POLICY IN ORDER AND RESOLVE THE BILATERAL NUCLEAR FUEL

MESSAGE (CONTINUED):

REPROCESSING ISSUE. I HOPE THAT YOU WILL GIVE YOUR PERSONAL SUPPORT TO THE EARLY RESOLUTION OF THE PLUTONIUM USE POLICY QUESTION FOLLOWED BY EXPEDITIOUS ACTION ON NEGOTIATING AN ACCEPTABLE AGREEMENT WITH JAPAN.
MANSFIELD

TOKYO 8304

DTG: 190727Z MAY 82 PSN: 034769

DECLASSIFIED

NLS FOO-037/1 #316

BY LOT, NARA, DATE 7/24/06

~~SECRET~~

**NATIONAL
SECURITY
ARCHIVE**

This document is from the holdings of:

The National Security Archive

Suite 701, Gelman Library, The George Washington University

2130 H Street, NW, Washington, D.C., 20037

Phone: 202/994-7000, Fax: 202/994-7005, nsarchiv@gwu.edu