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FROM:Tokyo

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 535, September 2, 8 p.m.

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Control:1059

Rec'd: September 2, 1954  
9:34 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW	
SINGLE REVIEW AUTHORIZED BY: <b>A.A. SWISGALL</b>	DETERMINATION (CIRCLE NUMBER(S)) 1. CLASSIFICATION RETAINED 2. CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO: 3. DECLASSIFIED ON: <b>11/10/94</b>
REVIEWER (ARS): <b>3-31-94</b>	4. DECLASSIFY WITH: 5. CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED 6. CLASSIFIED INFO BRACKETED
NAME: <b>3-31-94</b>	
DATE: <b>7-1-94</b>	

DOS memo 9407251, 7/8/94

1. I called on Foreign Minister this morning to express official concern over relapse and critical condition radio operator FUKURYU MARU, and to extend our best wishes for his recovery. At noon Embassy issued press release re visit; text cabled Embassy's 520.

2. I also expressed to Okazaki my concern over unfriendly sensationalism with which Japanese press is reporting illness and the encouragement given to those Japanese officials who have used condition to agitate for larger compensation from US. Believing it important have US offer on record in writing, I handed Okazaki a personal letter in which, after expressing our sympathy for I: (A) Restated our maximum offer of one million dollars; (B) pointed out that while distribution of sum is matter for Japanese Government we hoped major portion would be used to compensate patients and their families and recalled Foreign Office's earlier view that individual solatiums should be two million yen; (C) asked formally if Japanese Government now prepared conclude compensation agreement; (D) reminded Okazaki that any sum in excess our offer would require Congressional action and consequent delays; and (E) hoped settlement could be arranged speedily in interest expediting aid and assistance for unfortunate fisherman. In giving Okazaki this letter, I said I hoped it would be of assistance to his efforts with his Ministerial colleagues.

3. Okazaki said he believed our press release would be most helpful. He said his Government had been on point of concluding agreement when news of relapse broke. This had stiffened opposition of Ando and Hori who were now more vigorous in opposing million dollar settlement than at any time before. Okazaki appeared deeply disturbed by their opposition, which was creating difficult situation for government. He seemed however, to have no useful ideas for improving situation and was unable to predict how soon compensation issue could be settled.

4. At this point I showed him Embassy memorandum of conversation with ABCC doctor who had examined August 30. This doctor had reported to US that patient who had recently recovered from

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5-9 Kobayashi

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-2- 535, September 2, 8 p.m., from Tokyo

jaundice appeared to have virus hepatitis induced by 73 blood and plasma transfusions. He characterized this as "serious overtreatment" and noted a number of deficiencies and inconsistencies in care and case records of [redacted]. I said that regardless merits this doctor's opinion, if compensation issue went to Congress testimony such as this would have to be introduced into record. This would create most difficult situation US-Japanese relations and would undermine efforts of Japan's friends in US to be of continuing assistance. Okazaki acknowledged that he had had similar views from Japanese doctors, but "not from majority." Okazaki seemed fully cognizant of desirability arranging compensation settlement speedily but against background [redacted] headlines he does not appear confident his ability to do so.

ALLISON

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