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FUNJONAL PREFECTURAL CONFERENCE
No. 1, Tenjinmachi, Fukuoka City, Japan

27347

299 Chi No. 197

June 23, 1954

Mr. James Victor Martin, Jr.
Consul of the United States of America
Fukuoka, Japan.

Subject: Hydrogen Test Blast, Rhee Line and
Japanese Fishing Boats and Their Crew
Seized by Korsans.

Dear Sir,

We had a conference of governors of seven prefectures in Kyushu and Yamaguchi prefecture on Jun. 10 and 11, and succeeding it the central government called a conference of governors of all prefectures in Japan on Jun. 17 and 18. At that occasion, each governor presented his desideratum to the central government and had discussion. Among other things, the subject problems are most important, especially hydrogen test blast is now under the diplomatic negotiation by the central government. Such being the case, I sincerely ask you, who are the only person representing the United States of America in this district, to understand the following opinions as the voice of all the inhabitants of all Kyushu and Yamaguchi prefecture and to give us your cooperation for the settlement of these problems.

1. Hydrogen test blast

The damages sustained directly and indirectly by the fishing people of all Kyushu and Yamaguchi prefecture from the hydrogen test blast, which was begun in March and has been repeated thrice, amounted to a big sum because of its geographical proximity. For instance, according to the research of the Marine Product Section of the Kagoshima Prefectural Government, in its prefecture alone they cast away fishes of 21 boats, which were contaminated with radio-activity over 100 counts, in May and fishes of 35 boats until Jun. 10. And the indirect loss caused by the fall in the price of fishes during the period from Mar. 16 to Apr. 20 is estimated at ¥ 65,283,000.

Moreover, daily living of general people has been under its threat and they are feeling very uneasy about taking water and food. We have to say from the standpoint of humanism that the condition is very serious.

(a) I beg you to take good offices in arrangement to pay compensation enough to cover the loss direct and indirect not only to the crew of fishing boat but also to the fishing traders concerned.

(b) Until now everywhere in Japan, many many prefectural assemblies and others made resolution against hydrogen test blast. Under such circumstances, if the test is repeated often and every year, it is anticipated that violent opinion will rise from the standpoint of social rightness, so that I ask your

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59

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government to pay prudent care to the test in case it is repeated again.

2. For the earlier settlement of Rhee Line issue.

At present, it is the best season for fishing of mackerel around Saishuto Island, Korea, however, our fishing people can not go there being hindered by the Rhee Line even from the nearest prefectures such as Yamaguchi and Nagasaki.

3. Seized Japanese fishing boats and their crew.

Most of the seized Japanese fishing boats and their crew have been returned to Japan, but there are still many Japanese fishing boats and their crew seized by the Koreans. The living condition of the families of the crew is becoming bad to worse day by day.

Para. 2 and para. 3 are the issues between Japan and Korea, but the negotiations between two countries are at deadlock. On this occasion, I sincerely ask you, the Government official of the United States of America, to take good offices for reopening of negotiation between two countries at the earliest possible date and to settle these issues as soon as possible.

Yours Sincerely,

/s/ Katsuji Sugimoto

Katsuji Sugimoto,
Chairman
Governors' Conference, Kyushu

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