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The Acting Secretary of State presents his compliments to His Excellency the Ambassador of Japan and has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of his note of October 4, 1954, in which it is requested that certain information be made available in connection with the issuance of HYDROPAC 27748 of July 30, 1954, and related matters.

HYDROPAC 27748 was issued at the request of the Commander-in-Chief of the United States Pacific Fleet to facilitate his security responsibilities. It was intended simply and solely to warn unsuspecting fishermen from disembarking on Rongelap, Rongerik and Ailinginae Atolls. The notice does not have anything to do with the waters surrounding the atolls; it merely refers to the residual radioactivity on the atolls.

The notice was issued as a result of the fall-out that occurred on March 1, 1954; not because of any development occurring after that date.

The Ambassador's attention is called to the statement made by Mr. Midkiff, former High Commissioner for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, in the course of the Trusteeship Council discussions in July to the effect that only Rongelap Atoll, especially the northern section of it, was significantly affected by the March 1 fall-out incident. No data have been revealed, nor has there been any evidence brought to the attention of the United States Atomic Energy Commission to indicate that the waters surrounding the atolls contain any unusual amounts of radioactive contamination.

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| DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW | 1. DETERMINATION (CIRCLE NUMBER(S)) |
| | 2. CLASSIFICATION RETAINED |
| SINGLE REVIEW AUTHORIZED BY: | 3. CONTAINS NO DOE CLASSIFIED INFO |
| 4. DATE | 5. COORDINATE WITH: 5732 |
| REVIEWER (ADD): | 6. CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED |
| NAME: <i>D. L. Cannon</i> | 7. CLASSIFIED INFO BRACKETED |
| DATE: <i>4/1/84</i> | |

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The Department of State and the Atomic Energy Commission are aware of the reports that fish cargoes have been found to be radioactive. No data have been forthcoming, however, to assess these claims since none of the fish from such cargoes have been available for analysis. Accordingly, it is impossible to comment on the reasons for "the unusually high radioactivity count found on the recent catches of the Japanese fishing boats."

With respect to the Ambassador's comment that some Japanese suspect tests have been conducted on the atolls listed in HYDROPAC 27748, the Chairman of the United States Atomic Energy Commission and the Secretary of Defense announced on May 13, 1954, that the 1954 series of thermonuclear tests at the Commission's Pacific Proving Grounds had been completed. There have been no further tests in the Pacific Proving Grounds since that time.

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Department of State,
Washington, October 25, 1954

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FE:NA:RMHerndon:S/AE:GCSpiegel:bt:ls

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