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FROM: Tokyo

MHE S 3-9
Folder Kuboyama, Aikichi 1954

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

Info

TO: Secretary of State

Japan

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

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1. I called on Foreign Minister this morning to express official concern over relapse and critical condition Aikichi Kuboyama, 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.

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2. I also expressed to Okazaki my concern over unfriendly sensationalism with which Japanese press is reporting Kuboyama's illness and the encouragement given to those Japanese officials who have used Kuboyama's 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 Kuboyama, 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

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(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

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

jaundice

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BY AUTHORITY OF J. B. Hawthorne O, ROC
BY CP/mc DATE 8/14/61

RECEIVED TO THE SECRETARY

SEP 3 1954

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MEDICINE, HEALTH & SAFETY

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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 Kuboyama. 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.

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Control: 731
Rec'd: September 2, 1954
9:22 a.m.

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FROM: Tokyo
TO: Secretary of State
NO: 534, September 2, 8 p.m.

SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY
S/IE

SEP 3 1954

FUKURYU MARU patient Kuboyama is reportedly still in coma with condition deteriorating. Meanwhile Japanese press indulging in full scale emotional outburst combining self pity, criticism of the Japanese Government for its "delinquent" handling of FUKURYU MARU indemnification and general resentment against US.

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Among vernacular papers, MAINICHI, SANGYO KELIZAI, TOKYO SHIMBUN and NICHINICHI, while giving wide coverage and expressing equal alarm, are somewhat less anti-American than YOMIURI or ASAHI. State Minister Ando is being widely praised for his stand for greater compensation for FUKURYU MARU victims while INS report from Washington indicating that transfusion morbidity* radiation may be responsible for patients condition has been indignantly rejected by Japanese doctors in charge of case.

Dr. Tsuzuki's statement that he had asked Americans for achromycin and been told none available carefully reported, but only Japanese MAINICHI gave ABC Dr. Holmes credit for trying to assist, picturing him as only interested due to friendship with Dr. Tsuzuki and as rendered helpless by US red tape. Fact that US continuing supply intravenous aureomycin barely mentioned.

Similarly early US statements minimizing FUKURYU MARU incident being resuscitated with adverse commentary and attitude of US regarding claims being widely scored as cold and legalistic.

ASAHI particularly virulent. Yesterday stressed that American Legion convention spending \$10 million or ten times amount Japan "is dickering for over Bikini damages." Today ASAHI called Embassy cold, Press Attache cautious and UP and AP excited. Latter quoted as warning against new high level of anti-American sentiment and as pointing out Japanese expectations of abject apology.

Local treatment Kuboyama story has been highlighted by Kyodo-UP articles on Cal. Tech's Dr. Sturtevant and his latest predictions of "ultimate jimmubuo* of defective individuals" which will be caused by atmospheric irradiation from recent atomic and hydrogen bomb tests.

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*As received will service upon request.

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