



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

May 11, 1954  
DIVISION OF  
NORTHEAST ASIAN AFFAIRS

MAY 18 1954

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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of the Department of State for appropri-  
ate handling.

*Sherman Adams*

SHERMAN ADAMS  
The Assistant to the President

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FILE NO.		SIGNATURE R. B. Finn			
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Tokyo, April 30, 1954.

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AN OPEN LETTER TO MRS. DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER  
FROM MRS. TAMAKI UEMURA, PRESIDENT OF JAPAN YWCA

Dear Madam:

It is a source of heartfelt pleasure for me to address this letter to the first lady of the United States, a nation friendly to Japan.

The United States carried out H-bomb tests in the Pacific Ocean on March 1, March 26 and April 6. The Fifth Fukuryu Maru, a fishing ship, was dusted with atomic ashes while operating outside of the U.S. designated Danger Zone. As a result, the ship's 23 crew members suffer from radiation sickness. Dr. Hisao Morita, chief of the Internal Section, Medical Department, Toho University who is also a councillor of the Japan Academy of Blood Studies, along with other Japanese physicians diagnosed the sickness as acute or subacute panmyelophthisis. Five of the 23 patients are reported as reported serious cases for which Japanese doctors can do practically nothing but just watch.

Japan still has a number of patients suffering from radiation given off by the A-bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. Dr. Morita says he has treated 38 panmyelophthisis patients during the past 9 years and that 29 of them died.

I understand American doctors are well aware of the fact that the radiation sickness caused by H-bombs is far more serious than that caused by A-bombs. People like me who are not familiar with medical science are extremely worried.

We were grateful for Ambassador John M. Allison's courteous expression of regret and offer of American doctors' cooperation in treatment of the patients.

But we are at a loss to understand a portion of Mr. Allison's statement that seemed to discount Japanese doctors' reports on the patients. We feel the sickness is a long-lasting, dreadful one. I wonder whether our feeling can be termed as hypersensitivity stemming from our dread of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki horrors.

Up to April 14, four or five Japanese fishing vessels in addition to the Fukuryu Maru returned carrying radioactive tuna, and about 160,000 pounds of such tuna was buried or thrown overboard. The damage was tremendous for Japanese fishermen. Moreover, the fishermen now see bleak prospects of an indefinite closure of part of their fishing ground in the Pacific.

Of course, I know the United States Government will not hesitate to pay damages. But it seems to us the need could have been prevented. We also feel that the nervous tension of the fishermen because of the incident will not be cured of even with the payment of damages.

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Damage sustained by fishmongers is also great. Japanese housewives also suffer from nervous afflictions. Unlike in the United States, fish is a must item on Japanese tables. Many Japanese housewives who are scratching out home economy from small incomes will be forced to buy what might be impure fish instead of meat which they cannot afford, and so be forced to serve fish which might harm family health. It is doubtful whether our housewives can stand the nervous tension which would result from doing so.

Maybe the Pacific Ocean is no longer a "pacific" but a "danger ocean." We are so worried. This may sound humorous to you, but not to us. Generally speaking, Japanese are nervous people, though they look ~~nervous~~ <sup>the reverse</sup>, once they make up their minds.

The Syngman Rhee line cleaves the Japan Sea in twain, squeezing out Japanese fishermen from almost one-half of the area. Red Chinese vessels shoot at Japanese fishermen even when they are more than 100 miles away from the China coast in the China Sea. Russia captures Japanese fishing boats at will around Hokkaido when they consider them within their 12-mile territorial waters. Now that the Pacific Ocean has become hazardous for Japanese fishermen to go out because of H-bomb tests, the Japanese fishermen seem to have been closed out of all the seas of Asia.

Such restrictions on the high seas appear to be just man-created. I think the high seas should be open to all nations. If one nation deems it necessary to carry out atomic tests on the high seas, I should think the nation must do it after obtaining consent from all other nations having ships that may cruise in the test area. I wonder if it is all right for a nation to arbitrarily mark a danger zone and notify other nations of the marking.

I am a lay woman in the field of international law, so I do not understand how the United States can arbitrarily create a danger zone on the high seas of the Pacific Ocean. We believe the Fukuryu Maru was outside the danger zone. But we doubt the justifiability of creating the danger zone.

The United States has long been respected as a nation of democracy and humanitarianism. As a woman who studied for four years in an American college, having many good friends in the United States, I have been inclined to trust anything Americans say or do. But the H-bomb tests simply upset me.

I used to recall the United States as a land where people were generous and were willing to listen to criticism with open minds. But the United States now appears to me a land of witch-hunts in the name of anti-Communist activities. Many Americans now seem to me too hasty to call people they don't like "spies."

I never dreamed that the United States would become a land where even Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer is branded as "poor security risk." I feel the United States ~~today is a different~~ country from the one which once had President Abraham Lincoln and which once respected freedom of thought and speech.

The reason why I am so rude as to criticize internal policies of the United States is that humanitarian Japanese sincerely support Dr. Oppenheimer, Dr. Albert Einstein and Mr. David Lilienthal and oppose production of super-destructive weapons.

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President Eisenhower reportedly thinks the production of H-bombs is aimed at prevention of wars, and has encouraged and ordered the production in a sincere belief that his act would save the world from Soviet totalitarian aggression.

But I believe that policy will undermine America's spiritual tradition. I am afraid of the prospects of the United States swinging to totalitarianism before American citizens realize what is happening.

I honestly believe the Creator expects mankind to use atomic energy only for peaceful industries and for elevation of our living standards. Therefore I, a woman who believes in and fears God, consider studies of atomic energy for destruction an insane act. I dare say any people working for atomic destruction are serving the disguised Satan.

I quite agree that the Soviet Union is now endangering the world with its unscrupulous, deceptive and terroristic revolution attempts, and I understand the United States was forced to consider production of H-bombs to counter Soviet schemes. I firmly believe the United States intends to defend not only herself but all free nations of the world.

Nevertheless, the Soviet Union is believed also to possess Lithium bombs. I fear either side may be tempted to use H-bombs to gain an advantage over the other side. Mere misunderstandings can sometimes lead to a calamity. Once such calamity occurs, the whole world -- not to mention Japan sandwiched between Russia and America -- may perish.

A race of H-bomb production appears to me foolish and dreadful.

I know the United States has proposed to put atomic energy under international custody and that the Soviet Union has not agreed. The Soviet Union wants to shroud everything in mystery and would not like to give a chance for other nations to peak into its inner setup through international custody of atomic energy. The Soviet Union is to blame for that policy. But we must continue our efforts to persuade her to agree to the American proposal.

But to continue production of H-bombs on the reason that the Soviet Union does not agree to the American proposal seems to me an act of men who do not believe in and do not fear God.

Christians should first believe in God, and stop production of atomic weapons and scrap all atomic weapons available. Christians should immediately advocate switching entire atomic energy research to the benefit of peaceful industries and the people's daily life.

If the Soviet Union does not listen to the wishes of the peoples of the world, and insists on a policy which might destroy mankind, God Almighty Himself will punish the Soviet Union.

We are anxiously watching developments of the debates in the United Nations Disarmament Committee. We are positive all peoples outside the Iron Curtain wish for organization of an international and supra-national system to take atomic energy under its custody.

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I think the free world will have a better means of defense than atomic weapons if it is united in deciding to drop the folly of spending lavish money on destruction, and in switching the money for the purpose of economical, cultural, physical and spiritual elevation of the many races of the world.

We sincerely hope that the Disarmament Committee aims at banning use and production of atomic weapons, and that it gradually puts into effect such measures as international custody of atomic energy, scrapping of all atomic weapons available and turning all atomic research to peaceful purposes.

Japan's vulnerability to Soviet aggression actually lies in her present economic impoverishment, instead of lack of arms. The Soviet Union is known to prefer the tactics of corroding other nations from within to the tactics of invading other nations by armed forces from without. I believe Japan should build up her economic strength before building up armed forces in order to resist Communist aggression, needless to say, that she needs strong police.

If mankind fails to realize God's will and engages in destructive activities, God will punish us for the cardinal sin of refusing to believe in and fear Him.

I sincerely wish you and President Eisenhower, who are Christians, will generously forgive this rude letter to you from a Japanese Christian woman.

Most respectfully,

*Tamaki Uemura*

(Mrs.) Tamaki Uemura

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