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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: July 6, 1954

SUBJECT: Radioactive Tuna

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. Cribbett, Food and Drug Administration
Mr. Looney, U/FW

COPIES TO: S/AE - Mr. Spiegel
NA - Mr. Finn
U/FW - Mr. Herrington

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Mr. Cribbett informed me that a radioactive tuna had been discovered earlier today in a California cannery by the cannery's own monitoring group. This is the third contaminated tuna found among Japanese tuna exports to the United States since the bomb tests of March. The fish, a thirty-five pound albacore, recently arrived from Yokohama on the Asema Maru; it was part of a lot of 1,406 fish, designated "White Fuji"; it had been taken from cold storage in Japan on May 20.

Contamination was largely in the skull and bones, as in the case of the earlier two specimens, indicating contamination through ingestion. Radioactivity was from .5 to .8 milli-roentgens.

I indicated to Mr. Cribbett that the Department would watch developments but would not at this time inform Embassy Tokyo.

WFL
U/FW: WFLooney: jcd
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