

May 26, 1955

Mr. John Jay Hopkins,
Chairman of the Board and President,
General Dynamics Corporation

Dear Mr. Hopkins:

On behalf of the Japan Atoms-For-Peace Council, we wish to express our profound gratitude for your untiring and sincere efforts -- ever since you came to Japan on May 9 with Dr. Lawrence, Dr. Hafstad, Mr. Reed and Mr. Walsh -- to open the eyes of our people to the great benefits to be provided by the peaceful application of atomic energy.

We firmly believe that the enthusiastic interest in atomic power on the part of our leaders and of our nation of almost ninety-million people was fully revealed in the earnest gaze and intent attitude of thousands of listeners who heard you speak on May 13 in Hibiyu Hall, the largest auditorium in Tokyo and in the close attention of the additional thousands in the over-flow crowd gathered before the television screen outside.

Of special and indeed paramount importance, is the fact that within a week after your arrival the sudden surge of ardor on the part of our leaders and of the public made it possible for the Hatoyama cabinet formally to accept enriched uranium -- previously considered a most difficult decision -- and to initiate the moves leading to the signing of an agreement with your country. This is the first, and basically the most important, result which you and your party have accomplished.

In addition, a committee for the peaceful application of nuclear energy has been established in the Diet identical with the one we have formed consisting of civilian representatives. Positive measures have been devised to give this Diet Committee legal and financial backing. The fact that a bill for speeding the peaceful application of atomic energy is about to be introduced in the Lower and Upper Houses of the Diet, is another important result. Furthermore, because of talks with you and your group, measures for allocating funds to purchase an atomic reactor from your country are being prepared. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts, that, in this way, Japan's educational and industrial circles will be able to conduct their own researches, permitting Japan to entertain new and bright hopes for the future.

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

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There is a realization in our country of the need for immediate experimental research leading to the establishment of atomic power generation and, as you have pointed out, great effort should be directed not only towards developing electric power but also to accelerating the development and use of atomic energy in medicine, agriculture, industry and science in general.

It is our earnest hope that Japan, by becoming a participant in a broad scale atomic energy program, will help to free the one billion people of Asia from poverty and disease, and help to build a world filled with friendship and love.

As you know, under the present political and economic conditions in this country, it is not an easy task to translate lofty ideals into hard facts.

We are aware that this program is the greatest and best course for Japan to pursue during this century. We feel that it is our solemn duty to accomplish our objectives, even with a serious cold war going on. Therefore we affirm anew our indomitable determination to achieve our goal, no matter what the cost.

It would be well-nigh impossible, however, for Japan to attain success in this effort without your cooperation and assistance, and that of your country. We have heard that your country may be able to offer us on a long-term lend-lease basis -- as the first direct sign of encouragement and assistance -- an atomic power reactor. It would be impossible to measure the joy of the majority of our people -- despite some criticisms that might come from a small section of the country -- if such a reactor were feasible. We believe, moreover, that such evidence of cooperation would become the symbol of the joining together of our two countries and would permit both our peoples to forget the bad dreams of the past.

Turning misfortune into fortune, we would deepen the feeling of amity and cooperation between our two peoples through the realization of our common destiny and duty.

We have heard that already a certain locality has been suggested as the possible place of installation. We believe -- as we are sure you do also -- that it would be far more appropriate to permit the Japanese scientists, the people and the government to determine the proper and most effective site.

We ask that you give special consideration to our request for your aid in securing American cooperation in this connection, since it would serve as the starting point of the Atomic Age for Japan and for all of Asia.

Representing the Japan Atoms-For-Peace Council and the nearly ninety-million people of Japan who are grateful to you for the effort you have expended in opening a new page in our history, we pay you our utmost respects and express our deepest gratitude.

Yours sincerely,

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