

SECRET

PODAM

AIR

FJBA-7605

21 JUL 1955

Chief, FE

Chief of () Base, ()

INFO: Chief of Station, ()

Operational/Psychological

PODAM/Japanese Public Opinion Regarding Atomic Energy

REFERENCE: FJBA-5662, 5 July 1955

1. One of the biggest problems of the KUCAGE element of the () Base has been the Communist campaign to tear open the wounds of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and override the program of the President of the United States for Atoms-for-Peace.

2. About a year ago, () at that time assigned to this base, met and developed the owner of one of Japan's largest media complexes, and, over a period of time, convinced him that he should take a strong hand in imposing a consistent anti-Communist editorial policy upon his media. Early this year, () interested him in the prospects of the peaceful use of atomic energy in Japan, and was instrumental in arranging for the visit of Identities A, B and C. This visit was at the invitation of a committee of prominent politicians, businessmen and academicians, headed by PODAM (see Reference). It resulted in stimulating much enthusiasm on PODAM's part regarding the peaceful uses of atomic energy, and this has been forcefully evident in his publications, which have consistently played down the Communist line as a consequence.

3. PODAM's enthusiasm led him, again with influence from () Base () had replaced () as contacting officer, to become co-sponsor with QKFLOWAGE of Identity D, PODAM and QKFLOWAGE did not always hit it off, and it occasionally required vigorous JABA intervention on one side or another to bring the joint sponsorship plan to fruition. It was successful, and the exhibition is currently enjoying

Plans for Peace Effort in Japan

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great success. It is also noted that () and ODYOKE have concluded an agreement on atomic energy development.

4. Attached is a letter from PODAM to Identity F, giving his report on the situation and noting that "we have done our utmost to publish the true facts of atomic energy through the media of newspapers and television, in order to calm the storms of violent controversy and combat the activities of the leftists and rightists." This letter, which was rendered into English and typed for PODAM's signature by the Intelligence Staff, Japan Base, will be delivered to () in a few days for transmittal to Identity F.

5. Recently, the local QKFLOWAGE Chief informed JABA that Identity E had instructed its Japan Bureau Chief, Identity G, to do a laudatory article on QKFLOWAGE as the organization which had reversed Japan's attitude on atomic energy. Chief, QKFLOWAGE, generously but, we feel with justice, gave JABA the actual credit for this turnabout.

6. We feel that we have achieved an initial success in this endeavor to combat Communist propaganda in the field of the use of atomic energy, for which much credit must go personally to () and (). We hope soon to expand our efforts with PODAM.

()
Acting KUCAGE Operations Officer

Enclosures:

- 1 - Identities s/c
- 2 - PODAM Letter to Identity F s/c

18 November 1955

Distribution:

- 4 - Chief, FE w/encls. s/c
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SECRET

Enclosure 1 to FJBA- 7605

Under Separate Cover

Identities:

- A. John Jay Hopkins
- B. Dr. Lawrence
- C. Dr. Hafstad
- D. Atoms for Peace Exhibition, Japan
- E. Associated Press
- F. President Dwight D. Eisenhower
- G. Rutherford Poats - *United Press!*

Enclosure 2 to
FJBA- 7605

Under Separate Cover
Tokyo, Japan
November 17, 1955

The President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Mr. President:

Let me begin by expressing my sincere congratulations on your successful recovery from your long illness and on your return in good health to your duties at the White House.

On behalf of the Japanese sponsors of the Atoms-for-Peace Exhibition which opened on November 1st in Tokyo, I wish to express our deep gratitude for the very cordial and profoundly significant message which you sent us on the occasion of the ceremonies opening the Exhibition.

The Exhibition has, just as you said, become a symbol of the determination of the American and Japanese peoples to use the tremendous potentialities of atomic energy for peace and prosperity, and this symbol is constantly before the eyes of the eighty million people of Japan.

Those who have come to this Exhibition and seen this symbol have lost all their bitter memories of the past. They have discovered a true and encouraging hope for the future. There is no more inspiring sight than seeing these people, who have discovered a new way for the making of history, devote themselves to this way.

As I watch the number of people enlightened by this Exhibition grow day by day, I feel a deep satisfaction which is a full reward for the part I have played therein.

Indeed, not only we sponsors but eighty million Japanese wish to express our renewed respect and appreciation to you and to the American people for the assistance you have given us in bringing to fruition so profoundly significant a project. Moreover, we admire the deep understanding, sympathy, and untiring efforts of Ambassador Allison and his staff in connection with this project, and we wish to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation.

The number of visitors to the Exhibition is growing daily, and they are overflowing the exhibition hall; we are already convinced of the success of the Exhibition. The number of students among these visitors is particularly significant; even young primary school students

are coming to the exhibition in groups led by their teachers, and there have been from many quarters expressions of gratitude for the exhibition as an educational project.

I believe you are aware of the extremely complex and adverse circumstances affecting the development of Japanese popular opinion regarding the issue of atomic energy. I feel that this situation is unavoidable in view of the particular experience which this nation underwent. However, I would like to stress that the Japanese have not failed to see through the flames in which they were baptized into the atomic age into the dawn of peace, prosperity, and civilization rising beyond.

I have faith in the intelligence of the Japanese. We have done our utmost to publish the true facts of atomic energy through the media of newspapers and television, in order to calm the storms of violent controversy and combat the activities of the leftists and rightists. The education in the theory of the peaceful uses of atomic energy, conducted last May by us in conjunction with the delegation from your country headed by Mr. Hopkins and Drs. Lawrence and Hafstad, marked a turning point in the controversial issue of atomic energy. This movement was the direct stimulus for the conclusion by our government of an atomic energy agreement, and also brought about the establishment of a Central Research Institute for Atomic Energy, thus laying the foundation for a great historical development.

To enlighten the people it is not enough merely to put theories on paper. The opening of the present exhibition was timely and is producing excellent results by showing the people many tangible objects. It was a necessary and logical step.

I would like to emphasize that I do not wish to develop this issue from a selfish national interest. It goes without saying that I hope for the swift recovery of my country, but I also fervently hope that the necessary high technical level can be reached as soon as possible in order that atomic energy can be fully utilized to liberate the hundred million people of Asia from poverty and sickness.

I feel keenly that this is the greatest task which has been imposed on us in the present Cold War.

I solicit your particular consideration toward the promotion of renewed and deeper mutual understanding between Japan and the United States by assisting our atomic development.

I enclose an aerial photograph to show that the exhibition now

being held is living up to your expectations, and I hope that it will give you pleasure and satisfaction. At the same time, I wish to pay my respects and express my appreciation to you.

It is my sincere prayer that you will remain in good health and will continue to play an active role in the promotion of world peace and prosperity.

Matsutaro Shoriki
Owner, Yomiuri Newspaper