

INCOMING TELEGRAM

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Control: 3835
Rec'd: DECEMBER 8, 1955
2:41 A.M.

Info
RMR

FROM: TOKYO

TO: Secretary of State

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NO: 129, DECEMBER 8, 3 P.M.

S/S

PRIORITY

REF EMBTEL 1282

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STATE MINISTER SHORIKI NAMED BY CABINET TO TAKE CHARGE OF ADMINIS-
TERING ATOMIC ENERGY MATTERS, YESTERDAY SENT AIDE TO EMBASSY WITH
URGENT PLEA FOR LOCATING ASIAN ATOMIC RESEARCH CENTER IN JAPAN.

IN ADDITION TO ARGUMENTS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, HE STRESSED (1)
IMPLICATIONS OF US DESIRE FOR JAPAN TO ASSUME LEADING ROLE AGAINST
COMMUNISM IN ASIA, APPLIED TO SPECIAL CASE OF JAPANESE LEADERSHIP
IN ATOMIC FIELD; (2) PRELIMINARY LEGISLATION FOR ATOMIC ENERGY
COMMITTEE BEING PRESSED IN PRESENT EXTRAORDINARY DIET SESSION IN
ORDER TO GET READY FOR LOCATION OF ASIAN CENTER IN JAPAN.

AIDE SAID SHORIKI ALARMED BY PRESS REPORTS DECISION GOING AGAINST
JAPAN, URGED JAPAN'S CASE. AS LAST RESORT, IF NEGATIVE DECISION
INEVITABLE, REQUESTED DELAY ANNOUNCEMENT TWO WEEKS TO ENABLE LEGIS-
LATION PASS DIET. SAID SHORIKI INTENDED PRESS AHEAD VIGOROUSLY
IN DEVELOPMENT OF JAPAN AS LEADING ATOMIC CENTER IN ANY CASE,
AND HOPED FOR OTHER SUBSTANTIAL US AID IF MONEY FOR ASIAN CENTER
SPENT ELSEWHERE.

AIDE INDICATED SHORIKI UNAWARE OF PREVIOUS FONOFF REPRESENTATIONS
ON THIS QUESTION, ALSO DOUBTED FONOFF WOULD BE SUFFICIENTLY
"POSITIVE".

COMMENT: THIS IS SAMPLE OF HIGH-PRESSURE SHORIKI TACTICS ALREADY
FAMILIAR IN CONNECTION ATOMS FOR PEACE EXHIBIT. HOWEVER, HE IS
POWER TO BE RECKONED WITH IN THIS INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT FIELD
HERE.

I BELIEVE THAT JAPANESE INITIATIVE IN SEEKING ASIAN CENTER AFFORDS

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 - (2)(C) Foreign Relations

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Date: 2003

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-2- 1291, DECEMBER 8, 3 P.M., FROM TOKYO.

FINE OPPORTUNITY TO STRENGTHEN US-JAPANESE TIES. IN EFFECT, JAPANESE ARE OFFERING ENTER PARTNERSHIP IN ATOMIC MATTERS THAT APPARENTLY WOULD GO WELL BEYOND SCOPE OF BILATERAL ARRANGEMENT. ACCEPTANCE OF JAPANESE PROPOSAL WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH OUR INTERESTS IN INCREASING JAPANESE PRESTIGE IN ASIA, STRENGTHENING JAPANESE TIES WITH WEST, AND IN ENCOURAGING JAPAN TO TAKE INITIATIVE IN ASSUMING GREATER DEGREE OF RESPONSIBILITY IN FREE WORLD. I ALSO BELIEVE OTHER COUNTRIES EXCEPT INDIA IN ASIA SO INFERIOR TO JAPAN IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY THAT LOCATION OF CENTER IN ONE OF THEM DIFFICULT TO JUSTIFY EITHER TECHNICALLY OR PSYCHOLOGICALLY. IF LOCATION REGIONAL CENTER IN JAPAN IS UNFEASIBLE, I HOPE WE WILL BE IN POSITION OFFER JAPAN OPPORTUNITY FOR FULL PARTICIPATION THUS ASSISTING JAPAN TO ASSUME LEADERSHIP ON BEHALF FREE WORLD IN ATOMIC FIELD FOR ASIAN AREA. IN ADDITION TO ADVANCE NOTICE OF DECISION, I WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE ON WHAT WE MAY TELL JAPANESE REGARDING THEIR POTENTIAL ROLE.

ALLISON

MAM

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