

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

STAFF SUMMARY SUPPLEMENT

July 25, 1958

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Japanese Ships Caught in Truk Fallout - Our Ambassador in Tokyo has reported that the initial information received by the Maritime Safety Board concerning two Japanese ships caught in a fallout near Truk (100 miles outside the danger zone) indicates that one ship, the "Takuyo Maru", has high radiation readings. A number of the crew members experienced a high white blood count drop after their exposure to the radiation. The Maritime Safety Board has been advised to fly these men back to Japan for treatment, and it has requested our assistance in this task and that of decontaminating the "Takuyo Maru".

Our Ambassador comments this is a most unfortunate affair which could not have come at a worse time. At best it could very adversely affect US-Japanese relations in terms of Japanese opinion. He feels it is imperative we do everything we can to cooperate with the Japanese Government (which is trying to minimize hostile reaction) by acceding to its wishes in the matter.

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