November 12, 1980
State Department Telegram 302395 to US Embassy Japan, 'Japanese Reprocessing Plans'

Citation:
“State Department Telegram 302395 to US Embassy Japan, 'Japanese Reprocessing Plans',"
November 12, 1980, History and Public Policy Program Digital Archive, NARA, RG 59, Subject Files of Ambassador Gerard C. Smith, box 17, Japan (January-June 1980)
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Summary:
The telegram shows the State Department requesting the US Embassy in Tokyo to learn more about Japanese thinking on a second reprocessing plant and why Japanese MITI and JAERIA held different views on this issue.

Original Language:
English

Contents:
- Scan of Original Document
SECRET

PAGE 01

STATE 302395

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E.O. 12063: NUS-11-14-00 (NUSENZO, LOUIS V.) DES/N

TAGS: PARM, ENRG, TECH, JA

SUBJECT: JAPANESE REPROCESSING PLANS

REF: TOKYO 14582

1. SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. DEPARTMENT FOUND INFORMATION ON JAPANESE REPROCESSING
   PLANS IN REPTL VERY INTERESTING, PARTICULARLY PARA 2,
   REPORTING CONCLUSIONS OF JAERI STUDY. HOWEVER, WE NOTE
   THAT INFORMATION GIVEN TO SCICOUNS PARA 9 INDICATES AT
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PAGE 02  STATE 302395

LEAST PART OF GOJ STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF CONSTRUCTION OF REPROCESSING FACILITY. WE ALSO NOTE THAT JNFS TAKING POSITION THAT CONSTRUCTION OF SPENT FUEL STORAGE FACILITY MIGHT BE PHASE ONE OF REPROCESSING PLANT CONSTRUCTION. WE ALSO FIND STATEMENT THAT US VIEWS ON REPROCESSING ARE NOT CLEAR (PAHA 11), INTERESTING SINCE WE HAVE REPEATEDLY DISCUSSED THIS ISSUE WITH JAPANESE OFFICIALS.

3. WOULD LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT JAPANESE PLANS, BUT REALIZE THAT THIS IS A VERY DELICATE SUBJECT. AS YOU KNOW, JAPANESE PLANS ON REPROCESSING HAVE BEEN THE SUBJECT OF SENSITIVE CONVERSATIONS WITH YATABE, WHO WILL BE HERE NOVEMBER 14, AND BEAR A DIRECT RELATIONSHIP TO OUR NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE JAPANESE ON TOKAI MURA, ALSO, HIGH OFFICIALS OF THE RECENTLY ESTABLISHED JAPANESE INDUSTRY ORGANIZATION WILL BE IN WASHINGTON SOON, AND WILL SEE ASSISTANT SECRETARY PICKERING.

4. FOR THESE REASONS, WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT ADVISABLE TO RAISE THIS SUBJECT WITH JAPANESE OFFICIALS AT THIS TIME, BUT WOULD LIKE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT YOU MAY HAVE ON CURRENT JAPANESE THINKING ON REPROCESSING, WE WOULD APPRECIATE CLARIFICATION OF APPARENT CONTRADICTION OF JAERI STUDY CONCLUSIONS AND MITI VIEWS. WE WOULD ALSO LIKE EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT OF WHETHER JNFS VIEWS INDICATE THAT GOJ MIGHT WORK OUT INTERNAL COMPROMISE AMONG ITS VARIOUS AGENCIES IN WAY THAT GOJ WOULD BECOME COMMITTED TO A TWO-PHASE PLAN THAT WOULD LEAD OVER TIME TO CONSTRUCTION OF REPROCESSING PLANT. HUSKIE

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