

Ref. A086/1513

MR POWELL

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Call By Japanese Charge

The Charge D'Affaires of the Japanese Embassy, Mr Seki, called on Sir Robert Armstrong on 21 May at 11.30 am. He handed Sir Robert a note setting out the Japanese discussions with the USSR Government on the implications of the Chernobyl nuclear accident, fulfilling the mandate of the Tokyo Summit. A copy is attached. Sir Robert Armstrong undertook to bring this to the Prime Minister's attention. He commented that the Soviet reaction was predictable.

2. I am copying this minute to the Private Secretaries to Sir Antony Acland and Mr Heiser.

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M C STARK

21 May 1986

20th May, 1986

Delivery to the USSR Government  
of the Tokyo Summit Statement  
on the Implications of the Chernobyl Nuclear Accident

1.

(1) Mr. Yasuhiro Nakasone, Prime Minister of Japan, sent a personal letter of 16th May, 1986 to Mr. M.S. Gorbachev, General Secretary, Central Committee of the Communist Party, transmitting the Statement on the Chernobyl Accident adopted at the Tokyo Summit. The letter was delivered on the same day by Mr. Y. Katori, Ambassador of Japan at Moscow, to Mr. M.S. Kapitsa, Vice Foreign Minister.

(2) In the said letter, Prime Minister Nakasone, after mentioning that the Tokyo Summit Statement was being delivered by him as Chairman of the Tokyo Summit Meeting to Mr. Gorbachev, explains that the Statement was adopted under the agenda item that the securing of safety is essential in promoting the peaceful use of nuclear energy and international cooperation for that purpose is an urgent common task in the present day world.

(3) In addition, Prime Minister Nakasone expressed his condolences to the bereaved as well as sympathy to those injured in the nuclear accident, and concluded his letter by stating that he hoped for the furtherance of international cooperation for ensuring safety in the promotion of the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

2. On delivery of the Japanese Prime Minister's personal letter by Ambassador Y. Katori, the Vice Foreign Minister,

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Mr. Kapitsa, quoted from a newspaper the part of Mr. Gorbachev's television speech on 14th of May that dealt with "anti-Soviet campaign by the West," although he said that he was deeply grateful for the Prime Minister's expression of condolence to the bereaved and his sympathy to the injured. Mr. Kapitsa also mentioned that though the letter referred to Mr. Gorbachev's television speech, the Japanese Prime Minister did not venture to give his views on Soviet initiatives such as the establishment of institutionalized international safety on the use of nuclear energy and a unilateral moratorium on nuclear tests as proposed in the speech.

3. In reply, Ambassador Katori stated that the Summit Statement was not intended as criticism of the Soviet Union and was issued from the standpoint of promoting peaceful use of nuclear energy. The Japanese Ambassador also told Mr. Kapitsa that Japan is in support of international cooperation for the purpose of securing safety and that with regard to nuclear test ban, though Japan takes great interest in the subject, it wishes to exchange views thereon at the time Foreign Minister Abe visits the USSR towards the end of this month.

