

BJM
12/2/57

November 30, 1956

Dear all scientists and people who are concerned peaceful uses of atomic energy:

The Elementary Particle Theory Group which is an association of active research workers in Japan in the fields of elementary particle theory and theoretical nuclear physics issued the attached statement regarding the atomic power agreement at the general convention held in Kyoto on October 30, 1956. We should appreciate it very much if you would be interested in the statement.

The Science Council of Japan has long been concerned about research in atomic energy in Japan. Deeply considering her social responsibility and duty, the Science Council addressed her resolution to the Japanese people as the "Statement regarding Research in Atomic Energy in Japan adopted at the 17th General Meeting of the Science Council of Japan, April 23, 1954". For your convenience we are enclosing a copy of the statement.

The contents of the statement may be summarized as the following three principles:

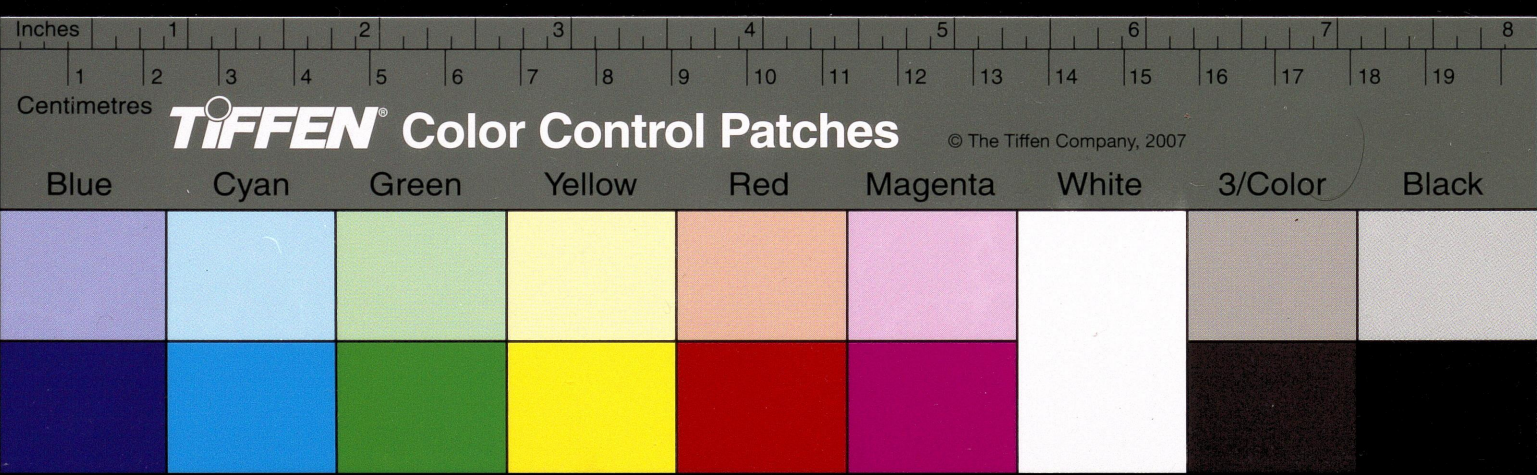
- 1) The principle of non-secrecy,
- 2) The principle of democratic management,
- 3) The principle of freedom

in research. Although it is quite evident that these three principles are necessary for any research, we should emphasize particularly the importance in the atomic power research.

Fortunately the legislation of the "Fundamental Law for the Atomic Energy Development" in the Diet of Japan on Dec. 19, 1955 was done in accord with these principles. In fact the law regulates the fundamental policy for the atomic power development under the three principles. We are proud of initiating the resolution of the Science Council of Japan and are strongly supporting these three principles.

Furthermore, the importance of three principles is now being justified and supported widely in the world. The International Conference at Genève seemed to be of the first big step. Very recently the International Atomic Energy Agency has been settled according to the proposal of the United Nations. The Agency, in which Japan has been nominated as a country of Board-of-Governors representing underdeveloped countries in atomic energy, is expected to establish democratic relations among participating countries.

In such a situation we are informed that our government is negotiating the conclusion of the "Agreement for Cooperation between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of _____ concerning Civil Uses of Atomic Energy".



In the circulating draft of the Agreement we find many points which contradict with the three principles and are against the current tendency in the world. For example, in Article VIII. D. we find the following sentence:

".....; and it is understood, except as may be otherwise agreed, that the form and content of any irradiated fuel elements shall not be altered after their removal from the reactor and prior to delivery to the United States Commission for reprocessing."

We consider that under such a condition free research is impossible. Furthermore Article XII. A.2. states as follows:

"In the event the Parties do not reach a mutually satisfactory agreement following the consultation provided in paragraph A of this Article*, either Party may by notification terminate this Agreement. In the event this Agreement is so terminated, the Government of _____ shall return to the United States Commission all source and special nuclear materials received pursuant to this Agreement and in its possession in the possession of persons under its jurisdiction."

* "..... In particular, the Parties will consult with each other to determine in what respects and to what extent they desire to arrange for the administration by the international agency of those conditions, controls, and safeguards including those relating to health and safety standards required by the international agency in connection with similar assistance rendered to a cooperating nation under the aegis of the international agency."

This condition seems to be a strong hinderance against the highly estimated status of Japan in the agency, because Japan will be practically unable to oppose the opinion of the United States Commission due to the severe term mentioned above. We would like to make contributions to the activity of the Agency, without any constraint.

Taking into consideration the current tendency in the world, we believe that it should be postponed to conclude such a pre-judicial Agreement with one specific country, at least, by the time when the International Agency will start her activity.

In the point of view mentioned above we made the resolution and issued the attached statement. We wish heartly all scientists and people who are concerned peaceful uses of atomic energy in the world may support our statement and cooperate with us in order to develop the truly peaceful uses of atomic energy.

Very sincerely yours,

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Theory Group
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