

NLT 77-12

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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PROJECT NLT 77-12

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MEMORANDUM

Samples of air masses recently collected over the North Pacific have shown an abnormal radio-active contamination. The first sample, secured 3 September, and the latest sample, secured 7 September, show radio-active material in concentrations greatly exceeding the normal radio-active content of the atmosphere. Such a high concentration has not been observed since the Eniwetok tests in August 1948.

This condition may have been caused by one or a combination of several things:

- a. An atomic explosion on the continent of Asia;
- b. Volcanic activity on the continent of Asia or in the islands North of Japan;
- c. Radio-active gases from the Hanford, Washington plant being swept out first to the westward by low-traveling easterly winds and then, on rising to the atmosphere, being carried back east again by the prevailing westerlies;
- d. Waste or an explosion at an atomic bomb plant in Russia.

Conventional intelligence reports indicate volcanic activity on 2 September at a point in the North Japanese Islands. This volcanic radio-active debris very well could have entered the air at this point.

This report has received only extremely limited distribution because there has been no confirmation of any man-made atomic explosion at this time. Meanwhile, we are attempting to get confirmation on exactly what might have occurred.

*late 10/14/49
for delivery*

Until further confirmation is obtained, it is requested that this report be treated and held with extreme caution.

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