

Prime Minister Mr. Shinzo Abe

Appeal for measures for Japan to contribute to strengthening the non-proliferation regime on the occasion of the NPT Review Conference:

- 1) **To announce internationally that an additional ton of plutonium will be allocated to Japan in the United Kingdom where the reprocessing of Japan's spent fuel was completed in 2006 (adding this to the 47 tons formerly announced as the amount of Japan's plutonium as of the end of 2013 will make the total 48 tons)**
- 2) **To declare that Japan will not start the operation of the Rokkasho reprocessing plant to separate more plutonium, at least until the current stockpile of 48 tons (equivalent to 6,000 nuclear bombs using the IAEA formula of 8 kg per bomb) is drastically reduced to, say, a one-year "demand" level.**
- 3) **To increase transparency on Japan's plutonium stockpile**

May 7, 2015

We, members of the Japanese peace movement, have a keen interest in the relationship between the discussions going on at Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty Review Conference in the United Nations Headquarters and the plutonium use policy of Japan.

In the Joint Statement issued by the Leaders of Japan and the United States at the March 2014 Hague Nuclear Security Summit, you "pledged to remove and dispose all highly-enriched uranium (HEU) and separated plutonium from the Fast Critical Assembly (FCA) at the Japan Atomic Energy Agency (JAEA) in Japan".. The statement said, "this effort involves the elimination of hundreds of kilograms of nuclear material, furthering our mutual goal of minimizing stocks of HEU and separated plutonium worldwide, which will help prevent unauthorized actors, criminals, or terrorists from acquiring such materials" and went on to "encourage others to consider what they can do to further HEU and plutonium minimization." You also pledged in your Summary Statement at the Hague summit, "we do pay due consideration to the balance between supply and demand of plutonium."

In its Basic Energy Plan adopted by the Cabinet on April 11, right after the summit, however, Japan confirmed that it would continue to promote the reprocessing policy. The present plan is to complete the construction of the Rokkasho reprocessing plant, which would be capable of separating 8 tons of plutonium (equivalent to 1,000 nuclear weapons) each year, in March 2016 and start the operation soon after.

Then, on September 16, 2014, about half a year after the Hague summit, the Office for Atomic Energy Policy of the Cabinet Office, which functions as the Japan Atomic Energy Commission's (JAEC) secretariat (JAEC secretariat hereafter), announced that as of the end of 2013 Japan's plutonium had increased by three tons to 47 tons from 44 tons at the end of 2012, an increase of about 10 times the amount of plutonium to be sent to the United States under the decision announced in the Hague summit.

Of the 3 ton increase, about 2.3 tons is from the allocation to Japan by the United Kingdom, where some of Japan's spent fuel has been reprocessed. The amount of Japan's plutonium stored in the United Kingdom increased suddenly after having stayed at about the same level since the end of 2005. The separation of plutonium from Japan's spent fuel in that country ended in January 2006. The contract stipulates, however, that the total amount of plutonium in Japan's spent fuel sent to the United Kingdom be allocated to Japan eventually over the years in a method irrelevant to the amount actually separated from Japan's spent fuel in any particular year, leading to such a situation. The explanation given at the September 16 JAEC meeting was not clear enough and the minutes of the meeting suggest that commissioners didn't understand the situation.

The remaining 640kg out of the 3 ton increase represents plutonium in the plutonium uranium mixed oxide (MOX) fuel loaded into the Genkai unit 3 reactor in March 2011, which has not been restarted. The JAEC secretariat had previously deleted this unirradiated amount from the total of separated unirradiated plutonium simply because it

was put into the reactor.

This situation, without clear explanation, could easily arouse suspicion in the international community as to why there was such a sudden increase of Japan's plutonium. It would be natural to ask whether there is any more plutonium left to be allocated. When asked about this by a Diet member's office, the JAEC secretariat replied on Nov. 13, 2014 that they found, after checking with utilities and others, that one ton more was scheduled to be allocated to Japan in the United Kingdom although the timing of allocation was not certain. With this one ton added, Japan has 48 tons (JAEC secretariat was told that there would be no more allocation in France). This also means that 3.3 tons (2.3 + 1) of plutonium was omitted in the previous "supply and demand" calculation.

Based on your own statement and pledge at the Hague summit, and given that it is unclear when and how many of the reactors capable of consuming plutonium (i.e., being loaded with MOX fuel) can be restarted, Japan's policy of trying to start the Rokkasho reprocessing plant as soon as possible would not be approved by international society.

We would like to make a three-point appeal to you as expressed at the outset.

- 1 To declare internationally that Japan's total plutonium stockpile as of the end of 2013 is effectively 48 tons;**
- 2 To declare that Japan will not start the operation of the Rokkasho reprocessing plant to separate more plutonium, at least until the current stockpile of 48 tons is drastically reduced to, say, a one-year "demand" level.**
- 3 To increase transparency on Japan's plutonium stockpile**

We sent you the attached appeal on this issue with detailed explanation on March 24th. We are sending you this appeal again from New York, where leaders and diplomats around world that have gathered for the NPT Review Conference are continuing discussions searching for concrete measures to prevent proliferation and move toward a world without nuclear weapons.

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