

Seiji OSAKA and other Japanese Diet members
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August 28, 2018

To: Mr. Mike Pompeo, Secretary of State

Copied: Mr. Rick Perry, Secretary of Energy
Mr. James Mattis, Secretary of Defense
Ambassador John Bolton, National Security Advisor to the President

RE: Message from Japanese Diet Members regarding reducing the Japanese Plutonium Stockpile

Dear Secretary Pompeo,

Please allow us to show our respect for your government's recent efforts to promote peace and stability in the East Asian region through the US-DPRK Summit and ongoing negotiations to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula.

The US-Japan 123 Agreement let Japan reprocess its spent nuclear fuel to separate plutonium. However, we, as Japanese Lawmakers, feel a heavy responsibility for the extent to which the Japanese plutonium stockpile has grown and this large stockpile is causing the international community concerns regarding nuclear proliferation.

As tensions on the Korean peninsula begin to relax and the negotiations to denuclearize proceed, we understand that it is very important for Japan to reassure the international community that it has a realistic plan to reduce the plutonium stockpile within a reasonable time frame. This would also reduce anxieties in South Korea and the Peoples' Republic of China (PRC), thus promoting peace and stability throughout the region. The positive effects may even reach beyond Northeast Asia to the Middle East region.

Unfortunately, if Japan limits itself to its current plans to dispose of its plutonium holdings by fabricating it into mixed oxide (MOX) fuel and irradiating it in a small number of Japanese power reactors, Japan will retain the vast majority of its holdings for many years. If it opens its plant at Rokkasho, this stockpile could easily grow again. We are extremely concerned about the risks of this approach and we believe that Japan should be switching to direct disposal methods, which the US is also investigating.

We are willing to urge the Japanese government to stop its plan on reprocessing spent fuel and to reduce our plutonium holdings concretely. We will also continue dialogue with US Congress members on this issue.

In the context of US-Japan cooperation moving in an effective non-proliferation direction, we believe that the US and Japanese governments should consider:

- 1) Working towards ending reprocessing in the Asian region and globally. Reprocessing spent fuel leads to increased separated plutonium and increased proliferation risks. Our governments should not rely on MOX program, which lacks economic rationality, for a regional commercial plutonium production pause.
- 2) Japan 's MOX program is, in reality, not progressing as planned and Japan cannot rely on this method to reduce its plutonium stockpile. Our two countries should cooperate to investigate and develop alternative methods of plutonium immobilization and disposal.

We believe that these measures would be in the common interests of all parties and would build security for all. We look forward to learning your own thoughts on these matters and hope that they soon will be the focus of direct discussions at senior levels between our governments.

Yours Sincerely,

Seiji OSAKA
Member of the House of Representatives of Japan

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