

**November 12, 1980**

**State Department Telegram 302395 to US Embassy  
Japan, 'Japanese Reprocessing Plans'**

**Citation:**

"State Department Telegram 302395 to US Embassy Japan, 'Japanese Reprocessing Plans'", November 12, 1980, Wilson Center Digital Archive, NARA, RG 59, Subject Files of Ambassador Gerard C. Smith, box 17, Japan (January-June 1980)  
<https://wilson-center-digital-archive.dvincitest.com/document/145138>

**Summary:**

The telegram shows the State Department requesting the US Embassy in Tokyo to learn more about Japanese thinking on a second reprocessing plant and why Japanese MITI and JAERIA held different views on this issue.

**Original Language:**

English

**Contents:**

Original Scan

Authority NND 6817



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Department of State

**OUTGOING  
TELEGRAM**

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E.O. 12065: N0S-1 11-10-00 (NOSENZO, LOUIS V.) OES/N

TAGS: PARM, ENRG, TECH, JA

SUBJECT: JAPANESE REPROCESSING PLANS

REF: TOKYO 14582

1. SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. DEPARTMENT FOUND INFORMATION ON JAPANESE REPROCESSING PLANS IN REFTEL VERY INTERESTING, PARTICULARLY PARA 2, REPORTING CONCLUSIONS OF JAERI STUDY. HOWEVER, WE NOTE THAT INFORMATION GIVEN TO SCICONS PARA 9 INDICATES AT

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LEAST PART OF GOJ STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF CONSTRUCTION OF REPROCESSING FACILITY. WE ALSO NOTE THAT JNFS TAKING POSITION THAT CONSTRUCTION OF SPENT FUEL STORAGE FACILITY MIGHT BE PHASE ONE OF REPROCESSING PLANT CONSTRUCTION. WE ALSO FIND STATEMENT THAT US VIEWS ON REPROCESSING ARE NOT CLEAR (PARA 11), INTERESTING SINCE WE HAVE REPEATEDLY DISCUSSED THIS ISSUE WITH JAPANESE OFFICIALS.

3. WE WOULD LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT JAPANESE PLANS, BUT RECOGNIZE THAT THIS IS A VERY DELICATE SUBJECT. AS YOU KNOW, JAPANESE PLANS ON REPROCESSING HAVE BEEN THE SUBJECT OF SENSITIVE CONVERSATIONS WITH YATABE, WHO WILL BE HERE NOVEMBER 14, AND BEAR A DIRECT RELATIONSHIP TO OUR NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE JAPANESE ON TOKAI MURA. ALSO, HIGH

OFFICIALS OF THE RECENTLY ESTABLISHED JAPANESE INDUSTRY ORGANIZATION WILL BE IN WASHINGTON SOON, AND WILL SEE ASSISTANT SECRETARY PICKERING.

4. FOR THESE REASONS, WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT ADVISABLE TO RAISE THIS SUBJECT WITH JAPANESE OFFICIALS AT THIS TIME, BUT WOULD LIKE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT YOU MAY HAVE ON CURRENT JAPANESE THINKING ON REPROCESSING. WE WOULD APPRECIATE CLARIFICATION OF APPARENT CONTRADICTION OF JAERI STUDY CONCLUSIONS AND MITI VIEWS. WE WOULD ALSO LIKE EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT OF WHETHER JNFS VIEWS INDICATE THAT GOJ MIGHT WORK OUT INTERNAL COMPROMISE AMONG ITS VARIOUS AGENCIES IN WAY THAT GOJ WOULD BECOME COMMITTED TO A TWO PHASE PLAN THAT WOULD LEAD OVER TIME TO CONSTRUCTION OF REPROCESSING PLANT. MUSKIE

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