原爆実験反対に対するアメリカ気象学会からの書面

1960年3月のサハラ砂漠における原爆実験に際して、日本気象学会は、フランスの政府および学会ならびに世界の気象関係官署および学会に、『サハラ原爆実験に対する抗議声明』を送り、反対運動の協力を訴えた。それに対して、アメリカ気象学会は1961年11月および1962年4月の理事会で慎重審議の結果、次のような書面を寄せて来たので、ナイバーガー氏の許可を得て、本学会から送った手紙と共にこれを次にかかかげる。なお『サハラ原爆実験に対する抗議声明』は、『天気』第7巻第6号 p.189 に載せてある。

拝啓

1960年3月フランス政府がサハラ砂漠で行なった原子 爆発実験に関して、日本気象学会がフランス大統領に送った書翰をお送り致します。

原子爆弾の悲劇的被害を受けたわれわれ日本人は,原子爆弾の禁止を何度も世界に訴えて参りました。日本気象学会会員もまた,気象学者としての観点から,原子爆発実験によって生ずる放射能が人体に与える危険性について各種団体に強く警告して来ました。

この点については、貴会員諸兄もわれわれと同じ意見であろうと存じますので、人類の福祉のため、世界のどこででも原子爆発実験は禁止するという私どもの運動を支持して下さるようお願い致します。

敬具 (訳文)

1960年10月14日

日本気象学会 理事長 正野 重方 アメリカ気象学会 会長殿

April 30, 1962

Prof. Sigekata Syono Geophysical Institute University of Tokyo Tokyo, JAPAN

Dear Professor Syono:

This letter is in further response to your letter asking the American Meteorological Society to make a statement against the testing of nuclear explosives. Former President Malone wrote you that the question you raised was being considered by the Executive Committee and the Council.

The Executive Committee and the Council

of the American Meteorological Society have examined the matter carefully and have come to the conclusion that no useful purpose could be served by any statement which it could make on this subject at this time. Such a statement would necessarily have to be confined to the area of competence of the Society, namely in this case the dispersion of radiative contaminants in the atmosphere from such explosions and their fallout. Information on this subject has been reported extensively and is available in both scientific and popular journals to all who are interested. In the field of biological effects and in the social and political judgments to be derived from them, the Society has no competence, and while its members are encouraged to express themselves as individual citizens, the organization cannot presume to speak officially.

I hope that you will understand our position. Members of the Society, accepting results which colleagues in the biological sciences have presented, and interpreting them in the light of their own political background, have spoken out as individuals on both sides of the issue: either against nuclear testing by all parties, or in favor of resumption of testing by the U.S.A. in view of the previous Soviet resumpion of testing. The Society is gratified that its members, as well-informed public spirited citizens, are engaging in this important debate. But the American Meteorological Society as a whole cannot make statements on matters which are basically non-meteorological, even if they have some meteorological aspects.

Yours truly,

M. Nelburge President