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U. S. Atomic Energy Commission and the Establishment of UNSCEAR (United Nations Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation) in 1955

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On March 1, 1954, the United States conducted the thermonuclear test code named "Bravo Shot" at the Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands. By in this test, Japanese fishing boat Lucky Dragon was exposed to radiation caused by the nuclear test. By the same test and following tests, many people in Marshall Islands and military personnel and other fishing boat crewmembers were exposed by the radioactive fallout. On March 16, Yomiuri newspaper reported about the Lucky Dragon Incident. 23 crewmembers of the Lucky Dragon were hospitalized with very distinct symptoms of radiation exposure.

Dr. Merrill Eisenbud, scientist of the Health and Safety Laboratory of the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission's New York Operation Office (NYOO), came to Japan and investigated the Lucky Dragon. He was leading scientist who research on Radioactive Fallout as the project Sunshine by Atomic Energy Commission. After this investigation, he became the director of the NYOO.

On December 27, 1954, Ambassador Alison met Japanese Foreign Minister, Shigemitsu and discussed about Bikini Incident. After this meeting, on January 4, 1955, United States Government paid \$2,000,000 to Japanese Government for the Lucky Dragon Incident. Nevertheless this payment was not the compensation but "ex gratia payment", Japanese Government accepted it. By this payment, people in Japan misunderstand the compensation was paid by the United States. On the other hand, Controversy of the Radioactive Fallout occurred among scientists in the World.

The United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR) was established in these circumstances. According to Eisenbud's autobiography, *An Environmental Odyssey*, UNSCEAR "had its origin in the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy (JCAE)." The executive director of JCAE, Corbin Alladyce, asked Eisenbud about "the value of a United Nation's Committee to collect and evaluate information about environmental radioactivity." Eisenbud reacted very positively. By the collaboration of JCAE and AEC, this idea was presented at United Nation by Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge. Then, United Nations Science Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation was established.

This presentation focus on how the U.S. delegate to UNSCEAR acted at the meeting and analyze the aims and view point of AEC scientists.