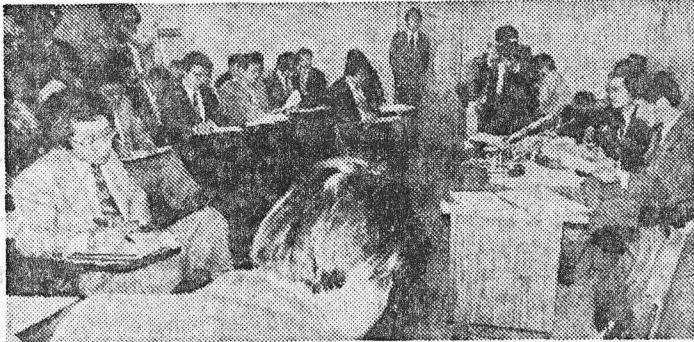


— Waste May Have Leaked From Storage Facility — 4/19

Seabed Near Fukui N-Plant Found to Be Contaminated



International Trade and Industry Ministry officials in charge of atomic power announce the suspected leak of radioactivity from the Tsuruga Atomic Power Plant at a hastily called press conference shortly after 5 a.m. Saturday. About 30 media people attended the conference held at the ministry in Kasumigaseki, Tokyo.

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An abnormally high concentration of radioactive substances has been detected in the seabed soil near a drain outlet of a nuclear power plant in Tsuruga, Fukui Prefecture, the Natural Resources and Energy Agency announced Saturday.

Agency officials said they could not understand why the seabed was contaminated, as the drain in question was designed to discharge rain-water and non-radioactive waste water. The Tsuruga Nuclear Power Plant is operated by the Japan Atomic Power Co.

However, a preliminary investigation conducted by an agency team indicated that radioactive substances might have seeped into the drain from a nuclear waste storage facility.

Agency officials said that the team examined mud samples collected from manholes of the drain near the waste reprocessing plant and 9,941 pico-curies of cobalt 60 and 1,458 pico-curies of manganese 54 were detected per gram of mud.

They said the source of the contamination had not yet been traced but said evidence so far pointed to the possibility that radioactive waste might have seeped into the drain from the storage facility.

The officials said Japan Atomic Power reported that 61 pico-curies of cobalt 60 and 10 pico-curies of manganese 54 were detected in seabed soil samples taken near the drainage outlet.

The company had been prompted to check soil samples following the discovery Thursday that 0.3 pico-curies of cobalt 60, some 10 times the normal level, had been detected in gulfweed taken from the seabed of the bay, toward which the plant faces.

Operations at the plant have been suspended since the beginning of this month after a radioactive water leak attributed to reactor malfunction was detected.

The officials said that the concentration of radioactive substances in the gulfweed was not so high as to harm human health. No fishing operations are allowed in the bay.

The focus of the investigation is expected to center on the suspected leakage of radioactive waste water into the ordinary water drainage system, they added.

The discovery of the radioactive contamination has sent a "shock wave" through government energy officials who are striving to expedite the much-delayed nuclear power development program in the present volatile energy situation.

Should the contamination be traced to a structural defect in the nuclear power plant, the case would be likely to boost the morale of anti-nuclear environmentalists and cause problems for the nation's nuclear energy policy as a whole.

The nuclear reactor at this plant is of the boiling water type and has an output capacity of 357,000 kw. It started up operation in 1970 as the nation's second commercial nuclear power reactor. Of Japan's 22 nuclear reactors now in commercial operation, eleven reactors, including the Tsuruga reactor, are of the same type.

The Japan Atomic Power Co., established by the nation's power companies, is the pioneer in nuclear power generation. It put into operation Japan's first commercial nuclear power plant in Ibaraki Prefecture in 1966.

Adjacent to the company's Tsuruga plant stands the governmental Nuclear Reactor & Fuel Development Corp.'s demonstration plant for an advanced thermal reactor, known as "Fugen."

The company is also scheduled to build another plant in the vicinity of the Tsuruga plant, introducing a pressurized water reactor with an output capacity of 1.16 million kw.

The 10-year-old Tsuruga nuclear power plant, however, has been involved in a total of 31 incidents to date.

City Tense Following Leak Of Radioactive Substances

TSURUGA, Fukui Pref. (Kyodo) -- The city of Tsuruga was filled with tension Saturday after it was found that unusual amounts of radioactive substances had been detected at a water outlet of the Japan Atomic Power Co.'s Tsuruga Nuclear Power Plant.

The suspected leakage of radioactivity from the plant may have a great influence on the outcome of today's mayoral election in the town of Kubokawa, Kochi Prefecture, where the primary campaign issue is whether or not a nuclear power plant should be constructed in the town.

Tadashi Kurihara, assistant mayor of Tsuruga, said he had instructed city officials concerned to delve into the cause of the leakage of radioactivity as soon as he was informed of it by the atomic power company.

At present, the amount of radioactivity in the air is normal and therefore there may be no health hazard, Kurihara said. But he expressed anxiety over the possible adverse ef-

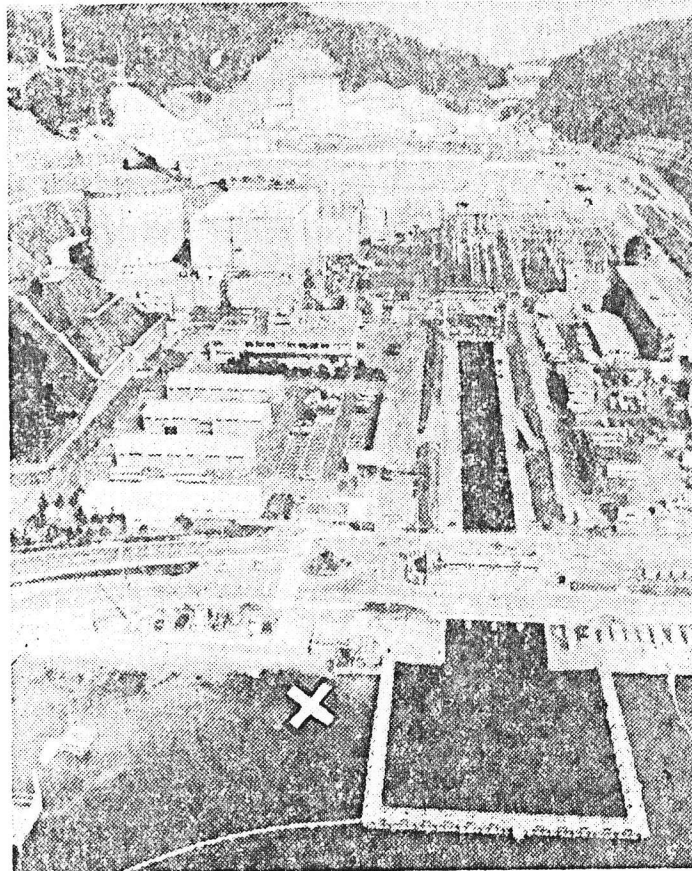
fects on the local fishery business.

Yonesuke Iwagoe, director of the Tsuruga power plant, said he would take measures to prevent the leakage of radioactivity from the plant as soon as the cause was found.

Meanwhile, the Japan Socialist Party issued a statement protesting the leakage from the Tsuruga plant. In the statement, the JSP said it was now clear that nuclear power generation was very dangerous and that it seriously affected the livelihood and lives of local residents.

An anti-nuclear power group in Fukui Prefecture also protested the leakage and urged that the prefectural government take more stringent safety measures.

Leaders of the group called at the prefectural government in Fukui and demanded that the government find the cause of the leakage at an early date and allow local representatives to conduct an on the spot survey.



An aerial view of the Japan Atomic Power Co.'s Tsuruga Plant in Tsuruga, Fukui Prefecture. Unusual amounts of cobalt 60 and manganese 54, radioactive substances, have been detected at a water outlet marked with an 'X'.

Mishap Occurred March 8 At Tsuruga N-Power Plant

A large amount of high-level radioactive waste water spilled from the storage tanks inside the waste storage facility on March 8 at Tsuruga Nuclear Power Plant in Fukui Prefecture, a government survey disclosed Monday.

The accident was thereby suspected of being the cause of the radioactive contamination of seabed soil in the bay near the plant site, the Natural Resources and Energy Agency reported.

The agency also said that the operator of the plant, Japan Atomic Power Co., did not report the leakage to the agency in an apparent bid to conceal the worst accident in the history of Japan's nuclear power generation.

The leakage surfaced in the course of the agency's investigation into the radioactive contamination of seabed soil near the non-radioactive waste outlet in Urasoko Bay.

Rokusuke Tanaka, minister of International Trade and Industry, summoned Tomiichi Shirasawa, board chairman of Japan Atomic Power Co., and instructed him to tighten safety measures at nuclear power plants, ministry officials said.

Further Shingo Moriyama, director of the agency, told newsmen that strict action would be taken against the company after the causes for the problems are determined.

The Nuclear Safety Commission held an emergency meeting to hear a report on the seabed contamination and radioactive waste water leak and to discuss measures to cope with them.

After the meeting, Norio Suita, NSC chairman, issued a statement deploring the power company's failure to report the problems.

The statement said a thorough investigation should be made into the causes and a comprehensive assessment should be made on radioactive levels in the area adjacent to the power plant.

Shunichi Suzuki, president of the power company, held a press conference for the first time after the seabed contamination came to light and apologized for the problems at the nuclear power plant.

He said that because employees at the plant worked night after night, partly due to heavy snow this winter and partly because of preparations for the construction of a second reactor, the head of the plant might have made a wrong judgment.

Plant officials and workers admitted to the investigators that a considerable amount of high-level radioactive waste water had overflowed from the two storage tanks onto the floor of the waste water storage facility building for about three hours on the morning of March 8.

The exact volume of the spilled waste water was still under investigation. However, the volume was believed to be substantially large in view of the fact that the spilled waste water overflowed into the building's corridor despite the 30-cm concrete barriers installed at the exit of the tank room.

Agency officials also said that the level of radioactive substances, such as cobalt 60 and manganese 54, in the waste water in question was "critically high."

The overflow was believed to have resulted from the failure of the plant workers to close the valves for water designed to evacuate high-level radioactive sludge inside the storage tanks, the officials added.

To the astonishment of agency officials, a number of plant workers were found to have carried the spilled radioactive waste water in polyethylene buckets for discharge and also dried the

Continued on Page 4

floor with dustcloths.

Therefore, the plant workers engaged in the disposal of the spilled waste are feared to have been exposed to critically high levels of radiation, according to the officials.

The officials also suspected spilled radioactive waste water of having leaked into the drain system for non-radioactive waste water and thereby leaked into the bay to contaminate its seabed soil.

To dispel concern about contamination of fish by radioactive substances, the Fukui prefectural government announced that checks conducted by its hygiene research institution showed that fish caught in the Tsuruga Bay were not contaminated.

It thus urged central fish markets in 22 prefectures to continue accepting shipments of fish from Fukui Prefecture.

Despite this action, Fukui fishermen demanded that Japan Atomic Power Co. buy up fish they can no longer sell because of the contamination scare.

On Monday morning, officials of the Osaka Central Wholesale Market called on Fukui prefectural fisheries cooperatives to suspend all shipments of fish and shellfish until their safety has been confirmed.

Officials at the Kobe Central Wholesale Market also asked dealers not to accept shipments from Fukui for the moment.

In Hiroshima, 15 members of an anti-nuclear group staged a sit-in Monday to protest the radioactive contamination.

The sit-in was held in front of the main office of Chugoku Electric Power Co., which, the protesters said, has operated boiling-water type nuclear reactors similar to the one in Tsuruga.

Safety Instructions

International Trade and Industry Minister Rokusuke Tanaka said Monday his ministry would immediately instruct the nation's seven power companies operating a total of 22 nuclear reactors to carry out full-scale safety checks.

Agency officials said that a team examined mud samples collected from manholes of the drain near the waste reprocessing plant and 9,941 pico-curies of cobalt 60 and 1,458 pico-curies of manganese 54 were detected per gram of mud.

They said the source of the contamination had not yet been traced but said evidence so far pointed to the possibility that radioactive waste might have seeped into the drain from the storage facility.

The officials said Japan Atomic Power reported that 61 pico-curies of cobalt 60 and 10 pico-curies of manganese 54 were detected in seabed soil samples taken near the drainage outlet.

The company had been prompted to check soil samples following the discovery Thursday that 0.3 pico-curies of cobalt 60, some 10 times the normal level, had been detected in gulfweed taken from the seabed of the bay, toward which the plant faces.

Operations at the plant have been suspended since the beginning of this month after a radioactive water leak attributed to reactor malfunction was detected.

The officials said that the concentration of radioactive substances in the gulfweed was not so high as to harm human health. No fishing operations are allowed in the bay.

They said the drainage system in question was for the purpose of draining rainwater and non-radioactive waste water from the administration building of the plant.

It is theoretically improbable, therefore, for radioactivity-laced waste water to have found its way into the bay via the outlet in question, they said.

The radioactive waste water is released into the outer waters of the bay through a different channel altogether, according to the officials.

case would be likely to boost the morale of anti-nuclear environmentalists and cause problems for the nation's nuclear energy policy as a whole.

The nuclear reactor at this plant is of the boiling water type and has an output capacity of 357,000 kw. It started up operation in 1970 as the nation's second commercial nuclear power reactor. Of Japan's 22 nuclear reactors now in commercial operation, eleven reactors, including the Tsuruga reactor, are of the same type.

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Fukui Fish Banned

NAGOYA (Kyodo) —

Authorities at Nagoya's central wholesale market Saturday banned all deliveries of fish from Fukui Prefecture after the detection of high concentrations of cobalt-60 and other radioactive substances in the seabed off the prefecture.

The ban followed an emergency meeting of market officials.

Osaka's central market also takes large quantities of fish from Fukui, but has not yet announced whether it will take similar action.

Some fish from the area was taken to the Nagoya market on Saturday morning, before the delivery ban was announced.

The market sells about 1,000 tons of fish a day, about 10 percent of it from Fukui and other parts of the Hokuriku region.

It is not known how long the ban will stay in effect.

Firm Says 56 Exposed To Radioactivity at N-Plant

4/22

A total of 56 persons were exposed to radioactivity following a leak of radioactive waste water at the Tsuruga nuclear power plant in Fukui Prefecture, it was announced Tuesday.

The announcement was made by Japan Atomic Power Co. suspected of having attempted to conceal the spill on March 8 of a large amount of radioactive waste inside the plant's waste storage facility.

The announcement by the power company said the maximum amount of radioactivity exposed to the 56 persons totaled 155 millirems, a unit to determine the dosage of radiation.

The average amount of radioactivity exposure, it added, amounted to around 13.7 millirems.

It said that two plant employees first received about 6-7 millirems of exposure while removing waste water soon after the leakage occurred on March 8.

Six other persons who joined them also were exposed, amounting to a maximum of 13 millirems. The average amount, the announcement said, was about 9 millirems.

It said 48 company subcontractors joined in the removal operation between March 9 and April 15, exposing themselves to a maximum of 155 millirems of radioactivity. It added that the average amount was about 3.7 millirems.

The leakage occurred when the plant's staff apparently forgot to shut the valve of the filter sludge tanks in the plant.

That subsequently led to the leakage of waste water, which spilled into the general waste water outlet in nearby Urasoko Bay.

The staffers and subcontractors were reported to have tried to dispose of the leaked waste water using buckets and wiping the floor with cloths thereby exposing themselves to radioactivity.

However, some government officials doubted the authenticity of the company survey.

They said that the average radiation level reported by the company is excessively low compared with the radioactivity level of leaked waste water.

An abnormally high concentration of radioactive substances has been detected in the seabed soil near a drain outlet of the nuclear power plant.

A team of government investigators examined mud samples collected from manholes of the drain near the waste reprocessing plant and 9,941 pico-curies of cobalt 60 and 1,458 pico-curies of manganese 54 were detected per gram of mud.

MITI Accusation

The International Trade and Industry Ministry (MITI) decided to lodge an accusation with the prosecutors against the management of Japan Atomic Power Co. in connection with the radioactive waste leakage at its Tsuruga nuclear power plant in Fukui Prefecture, MITI Minister Rokusuke Tanaka said Tuesday.

At the day's Cabinet session, Tanaka revealed the interim report of his ministry's investigation into the leakage believed to be the cause of the radioactive contamination of sea-bed soil near the plant site.

Tanaka told the press later that he believed the company deserved some type of legal punishment in light of the grave implications of this accident.

The company's neglect of its obligation to report the accident to the overseeing government agency would constitute violation of the Electricity Utility Industry Law, he said.

MITI is considering taking the formal action to lodge an accusation against the company on suspicion of the law violation immediately after the end of the ongoing investigation, Tanaka added.

He also said the management of the company is responsible for the lack of safety consideration and poor operation of the nuclear plant. He thus suggested that Shinichi Suzuki, president of the power company, should resign to take the blame for the trouble.

Tanaka also announced that Takeshi Noda, a parliamentary vice minister of MITI, will soon fly to the troubled Tsuruga nuclear power plant for an on-the-spot inspection.

subcontractors radiated

Power Firm Says Radioactivity Leak 4/23

Traced to Seepage Into Old Manholes

Japan Atomic Power Co. Wednesday announced the results of its investigation into the cause of the Tsuruga Nuclear Power Plant accident that exposed 56 workers to high levels of radiation. It reported that the leakage of radioactive substances into a general waste water outlet caused the seepage of some radioactive waste water into old manholes located at a bend in a steel pipe linking the first and second manholes for the general waste water outlet.

The radioactive waste water in question overflowed from a storage tank of sludge on March 8.

The company's investigation also showed:

—A hole about three centimeters in diameter was discovered in a wall dividing a waste wash water tank and the sludge storage tank that overflowed on March 8.

—Part of the overflowed sludge found its way into a groove about 20 cm wide and some 8 cm deep.

Investigators estimated that a total of 16 tons of waste water had overflowed before workers learned of the accident and closed the valves.

Below the groove along the wall is a one-meter thick concrete floor, and a manhole was buried 0.5 meters below the concrete floor for the general waste water outlet, the investigators said.

In the meantime, the atomic

power company announced it had reassigned Yonesuke Iwagoshi, director of the Tsuruga Nuclear Power Plant, and other executives of the power plant Wednesday in connection with the accident.

The company, headquartered in Tokyo and headed by Shunichi Suzuki, plans to take punitive measures against executive officials of the company, awaiting the completion of an investigation by the Natural Resources and Energy Agency.

Fabrication of Data

Officials of the Fukui Labor Standards Bureau Wednesday began an investigation into suspected fabrication of data on the amounts of radiation to which workers at the Tsuruga Nuclear Power Plant in Fukui Prefecture were exposed.

Pocket detector cards submitted by Japan Atomic Power Co., the operator of the plant, to the bureau Monday and Tuesday showed the radiation totaled 1,831 millirem from March 8 when the radioactive leakage occurred at the plant to April 15 when plant employees completed removal of radioactive waste water and that the maximum radiation an individual worker was exposed to was 56 millirem.

However, the company's announcement Tuesday said the radiation totaled 1,961 millirem and that the maximum radiation an individual worker was exposed to was 155 millirem.

The bureau will ask the company to submit the pocket detector cards again and other data to investigate whether some workers disposed of radioactive waste water without using Geiger counters.

The company said it has established fact-finding teams both at the company's head office here and at the Tsuruga plant to investigate the leakage.

A company official denied that radioactive waste water was discharged into manholes at the plant and said the leakage was possibly related to a mishap at a filter sludge tank March 8.

The Ministry of International Trade and Industry is considering penalizing the company for its repeated attempts to conceal accidents at the plant.

Tsuruga Accident — More a Crime

What happened at Japan Atomic Power Company's Tsuruga plant is more a crime than an accident. Although investigation is still in progress, there is little doubt that the leak of radioactivity there was caused by a faulty design of facilities and operational errors and the resulting damage magnified by the company's willful attempt to hide all this.

A large volume of radioactive waste water overflowed on March 8 from one of the disposal tanks, inundating a section of a building's concrete floor. More than 50 personnel were thrown in to remove it with buckets. They exposed themselves to radioactivity in the process.

For more than a month or before government inspectors were surprised recently by detection of radioactivity in the common-purpose sewers in the plant's compounds, the company failed to report the accident and what was done to limit it to the regulatory authorities.

The investigation so far shows that the radioactive waste water found its way into a conduit for non-radioactive waste water beneath the floor and into the adjacent bay. Fortunately however, neither the seawater nor the marine life in the area has been found contaminated to any dangerous degree.

The initial spill-over is said to have been caused by erroneous operation of valves. Investigators suggest that the radioactive waste water might have seeped through some possible cracks in the concrete base or been dumped through manholes in the storage facility. These openings can lead the contaminated water to the conduit as the waste storage and disposal facilities are laid out now following an earlier expansion.

The basic lesson of the Tsuruga accident is that it was caused primarily by a human error in the operation and design of the waste disposal system, and not by any mechanical or engineering defect in the reactor itself. Leaks are known to have occurred at the same plant in January, though on a smaller scale, are also attributed to operational errors.

The plant's operator did not inform the government of these accidents. Nor did it notify the inspectors stationed there. No entries were made in the log, it is said, concerning the leaks. In other words, the company as well as the plant management tried to "cover up" the whole thing.

The Ministry of International Trade and Industry has indicated its intention of taking legal action against the company. It is certainly necessary to punish the operator for so blatant a disregard of public safety. For its own part, the government cannot escape the blame for having been negligent in the area of nuclear power administration.

Pro-N Power Mayor Reelected

In the mayoralty election held on Sunday in Kubokawa, Kochi Prefecture, townspeople returned to office the same man they ousted only last month in a recall vote over his premature initiative in supporting a survey for the possible siting of a nuclear power plant. The election result, however, may not necessarily promise an ultimate victory for the pro-survey group in this small seaside community of 18,000.

In the March 8 referendum Mr. Susumu Fujito was supported by the Liberal-Democratic Party (LDP) and, indirectly, by the electric power industry and other pro-nuclear groups. But anti-nuclear residents who opposed his decision to invite the survey outvoted, by a narrow margin, those who backed his decision.

In his campaign for Sunday's election Mr. Fujito put aside the nuclear issue, saying that another referendum should be held to determine whether the town should play host to a nuclear plant. Instead he concentrated on other measures to promote regional development. But his victory was as narrow as his defeat in the recall vote.

One plausible explanation of his comeback may be that he won voter confidence primarily because of his record — and his promise — as a local administrator, and not as a nuclear proponent. If that is the case, there is no assurance that the pro-

MITI Team Continues Probe Of Tsuruga Radioactive Leak

TSURUGA, Fukui Pref. (Kyodo) — Officials of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry Thursday continued their investigation into the cause of the radioactive waste leak at the Tsuruga Nuclear Power Plant of Japan Atomic Power Co.

No announcement was made on the progress of the investigation being conducted by a 10-man team headed by Susumu Takashima, an inspector of the Safety Inspection Department of MITI's Natural Resources and Energy Agency.

It was believed that the investigation centered on: why radioactive waste water leaked into a non-radioactive waste water drainage system; why cesium 137, produced only by nuclear fission in a nuclear reactor, was detected in the drainage system; and the operating conditions of the reactor at the time of the leak accident.

The team was also scheduled to conduct an experiment to discharge colored water into the manholes in the radioactive waste storage facility to find out the routes the colored water would take.

It is believed that radioactive waste water that spilled from a sludge filtering tank inside the storage facility found its way into the non-radioactive waste water drainage system through the manholes.

Meanwhile, labor safety officials of the Labor Ministry, together with officials of the Fukui Labor Standards Bureau, questioned employees of the Japan Atomic Power Co. and its contractors who were exposed to large doses of radiation while cleaning radioactive waste water from the tank.

They also investigated whether there was any negligence on the part of Japan Atomic Power Co.

6 Executives Demoted

Japan Atomic Power Co. Wednesday demoted six top executives of its Tsuruga nuclear power plant in Fukui Prefecture for concealing the March 8 radioactive leakage incident which led to pollution of nearby sea water.

But the utility company withheld punishment against other people responsible for the accident.

Yonesuke Iwakoshi, director of the Tsuruga Plant, was assigned to conduct an intensive investigation into the cause of the accident with his five subordinates, after stepping down from the post.

Akira Machida, a director of an engineering firm employed by the power company, was appointed to succeed Iwakoshi.

Board Director Tatehiko Arima of the Japan Atomic Power Co. was also named to lead an investigative body.

Oi Plant Inspected

FUKUI (Kyodo) — Officials of the Fukui prefectural government Thursday inspected the Oi Nuclear Power Plant of Kansai Electric Power Co. in Oi, Fukui Prefecture, after it was disclosed that radioactive primary coolant water was spilled from its No. 1 reactor due to errors in regular checkup procedures.

Prefectural officials also questioned employees of Kansai Electric Power Co.

The Oi Nuclear Power Plant has been undergoing a regular checkup since Feb. 2.

Workers were to check various parts of the reactor

facilities after removing the coolant water but radioactive water remained in the system when the workers attempted to dismantle it for the inspection.

Kansai Electric officials told prefectural officials that the accident was not reported to the head of the plant because the volume of spilled radioactive water was not large and that the water was not particularly radioactive.

Fish Ban Lifted

NAGOYA (Kyodo) — The Nagoya Central Wholesale Market Monday lifted the de facto ban on fish shipments from Fukui Prefecture imposed after it was announced that radioactive substances had been found in Tsuruga Bay on April 18.

Specialists Defuse Bomb in Aomori

AOMORI (Kyodo) — Bomb disposal specialists of the Ground Self-Defense Forces Thursday successfully removed an unexploded shell found near an oil tank here early this month.

During the operations, about 2,000 local residents were evacuated and all area streets were closed to traffic.

The Japanese National Railways (JNR) also canceled the 11 train runs in the area scheduled for Thursday.

The American-made unexploded shell was found in the compound of the Aomori oil storage base of Shell Oil K.K. on April 6.

Power Firm President Apologizes for N-Accident

Shunichi Suzuki, president of the Japan Atomic Power Co., told a Diet committee meeting Friday that his company's safety promotion system would be thoroughly reviewed to prevent a recurrence of radioactive waste leakage from its plant.

He made this remark at the House of Councillors' Trade and Industry Committee meeting.

As part of its investigation into the March 8 accident at the Tsuruga Nuclear Power Plant, the committee summoned Suzuki and two other executives of the company for testimony.

This was the second time that power company executives have been summoned by the Diet for testimony on nuclear power plant accidents. In April 1977, executives of Kansai Electric Power Co. were summoned after some irregularities of nuclear fuel rods at its Mihama plant were reported.

After apologizing for the serious environmental disruption caused by the radioactive waste leakage, Suzuki said at the committee meeting that his company would retrain its employees and reorganize the company's structure.

The three company executives then answered questions by Shozo Harada of the Liberal-Democratic Party and Isamu Shimizu of the Japan Socialist Party in the morning session.

Answering questions by Harada, Tadakazu Asada, an executive director of the company, said that the plant workers had apparently underestimated the seriousness of the accident because the

radioactive waste was designed to remain in the storage facility even when some irregularities occurred.

The closed system failed, and about 16 tons of radioactive waste water leaked from the storage facility into the non-radioactive waste water drainage system, Asada said.

However, he estimated the amount of the waste water which leaked out of the plant at about 3 tons.

It was reported immediately after the accident that about 40 tons of the radioactive waste water had leaked out of the plant.

Asada also indicated the possibility that the waste water might have also spilled from small spaces between walls of the storage tank and the sludge filtering tank.

The company has conducted an experiment to discharge test water into this small space. The test water was later detected in the non-radioactive waste water drainage system, he said.

At the committee meeting, Harada also questioned the responsibility of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) for the accident.

Shingo Moriyama, director general of MITI's Natural Resources and Energy Agency, replied that his agency has had no knowledge about the location of the non-radioactive waste water drainage system.

The company failed to specify the location in its report filed with the agency to obtain approval for the construction of the plant, Moriyama said.

Release of N-Plant Water Said Common

4/29

An executive of Japan Atomic Power Co. told a Diet committee meeting Tuesday that it had been a customary practice for his company employees to discharge facility-cleaning water into a general-purpose drain outside its plant.

The water discharged in such a manner included, according to him, that used to clean the floor of the radioactive waste treatment facilities.

To discharge the water, he said, the company employees often used a manhole which many investigators now suspect to be the major route of the radioactive waste leakage accident.

This was revealed in intensive questioning of witnesses on a series of radioactive leakage incidents at the plant at the Science and Technology Committee of the House of Representatives.

Following a similar Diet appearance last Friday, Shunichi Suzuki, president of Japan Atomic Power Co., Chuichi Asada, executive director, and Tetsuro Itakura, head of the company's technology department, were closely examined by Dietmen from various parties.

In answer to a question by a Socialist Dietman, Itakura said the manhole in question was built at first to drain rainwater through two pipes. And he admitted the possibility that radioactive waste water could have flown into it.

This implies waste water containing radioactivity, although small, flowed into the Urasoko Bay facing the nuclear

power plant.

Itakura also said one of the pipes was locked up in 1977 when the facilities were extended, and another pipe was buried after the March 8 incident in which waste water overflowed a filter sludge storage tank.

Reiterating his apology for the incidents, Suzuki suggested he would resign when probes into the cause of the incidents are completed.

He also said his company would make a drastic reform of its structure and personnel education to prevent similar incidents in the future.

The trio also faced questioning at the House of Councillors' Commerce and Industry Committee Tuesday afternoon.

At the committee meeting, the ruling Liberal-Democratic Party also sought an explanation of the incidents from officials of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) and the Science and Technology Agency.

The party plans to decide on its attitude toward the incidents on the basis of a MITI interim report to be compiled Thursday and opinions from the Nuclear Safety Commission.

Jane Fonda Arrives

NARITA, Chiba Pref. (Kyodo) — Jane Fonda, American actress, arrived here Tuesday afternoon.

Fonda, 43, plans to promote the movie "Nine to Five" which she produced and stars in, during her second visit to Japan.