

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~

~~MA FILE~~ *Sen Murkowski*
SSCI

OCA 88-0740
8 March 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR: DI/OSWR
INFO: DDI
SUBJECT: Query from Senator Murkowski (R., Alaska) about Japan's Capability to Develop a Nuclear Weapon

During a recent briefing, Senator Murkowski diverted the discussion to Japan's peaceful nuclear energy program and its acquisition of plutonium. He eventually asked if the Agency could provide a brief overview on the possibility of a nuclear weapons program being undertaken in Japan. What additional capability would Japan need in order to use plutonium from its energy industry to fabricate a nuclear weapon?

Senator Murkowski is a member of the SSCI and routinely receives briefings at the TS/ Codeword level. As a Member of Congress, he also has access to RD material.

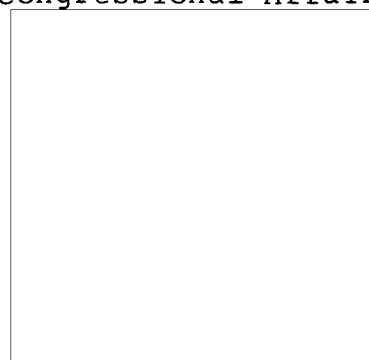
It is OCA's view that the Senator would want a brief response which could include general information on how much time would be needed for Japan to develop a weapon if it decided to undertake that program, how much design and testing would be required, how much weapons design information is readily available now and what would it have to acquire.

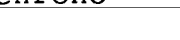


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