

The 10th day of November, 2014CE

Addressed to:

Governor Yuichiro Itoh of Kagoshima Prefecture,
The honorable members of the Prefectural Assembly of Kagoshima,

Issued by:

The Right Reverend Ichiro Shibusawa,
Chairperson, the Peace and Justice Committee
of Nippon Sei Ko Kai (the Anglican-Episcopal
Church in Japan)

The Reverend Kiyoshi Nomura, Executive
Chairperson, the No-Nuke Project of Nippon
Sei Ko Kai

**Statement of Protest against
the “local consents”
given by the Governor of Kagoshima Prefecture
and the Prefectural Assembly of Kagoshima
to the Sendai Nuclear Power Plant’s restart**

On November 7th, 2014, the Prefectural Assembly of Kagoshima passed the petition to restart the Sendai Nuclear Power Plant. This was followed by the prefecture’s Governor Yuichiro Itoh, who expressed his consent to the restart. These facts took us, the committee and the Project issuing this Statement, by sheer surprise, as something incredible. Voices are loud pointing out how disastrous and hazardous nuclear energy and radiation truly are, both in and out of Japan. While you, the Governor and the Assembly, are obliged to protect the lives and livelihood of your prefecture’s citizens, your consent to the restart proves you are more concerned with economy than with citizens’ lives – this is the impression shared by numerous people of the world.

We are certain that you all know very well the explosions and radiation leakage at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant of March 2011 forced countless citizens out of their beloved hometowns. Even today, many of them are still living in temporary housings as evacuees. Yet another disaster that is still happening today is that some gigantic quantities of radioactive substances are leaking out of the Nuclear Plant, contaminating the ocean, soil, and air, and we are sure you are aware of this disaster as well. Furthermore, in much of Fukushima, the radioactive soil collected by the “decontamination” work there is simply piled up at numerous places in the prefecture, since we, humans, have yet to find out a technology to process radioactive substances

safely. We are certain you are well aware of this danger as well. These are some of the harm nuclear power stations can do. While many are aware of those dangers, what necessity is there to restart a nuclear power plant and expose people to such grave dangers?

Moreover, in your own prefecture, many municipalities close to the Sendai Plant, for instance Ichikikushino City, have adopted a resolution to oppose the Plant's restart, according to media reports. Elsewhere, the Volcanological Society of Japan called for a reconsideration of the volcanic effects evaluation guide on the Nuclear Plant prepared by the Nuclear Regulation Authority of Japan, which presumed that it was feasible to predict a major volcanic eruption. While Governor Itoh said the volcanic risks were not an issue, following explanations given by Kyushu Electric Power, the Volcanological Society is criticizing it, saying such a no-problem recognition is diagonally opposed to the current scientific knowledge.

Your decision of the consent to the nuclear plant restart, while all those oppositions and questions are roaring, is an act of betrayal to your own people and of disregard to safety. We have to say, in consenting to the restart, you have abandoned your duty to protect your own people's lives.

We, Nippon Sei Ko Kai (the Anglican-Episcopal Church in Japan), adopted a statement titled "For a World without Nuclear Power Plants," at our general Synod convened in May 2012. The heart of its message is that we must not threaten any lives created by God. We, humans, need to repent of our past, in which we allowed for nuclear power plants, a major threat to lives. It is high time we should change our energy policies to eliminate this source of dangers and turn to safer renewable sources of energy. We are convinced that this demand is shared not just by Christians but by many other citizens as well.

Standing upon the viewpoints described above, we hereby issue this Statement of Protest against to the Governor and the Prefectural Assembly of Kagoshima Prefecture, demanding that you should define and implement policies whose top priority is your own people's lives.
