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Date: 2/19/2016 11:40:29 AM
Subject: FW: Request for interview (Mainichi Newspapers)

From: Iva Kovacheva [mailto:iva.kova@mainichi.com]
Sent: Friday, February 19, 2016 10:29 AM
To: Symmes, Brian
Subject: Request for interview (Mainichi Newspapers)

Dear Gov. Haley,

My name is Iva Kovacheva and I work as Correspondent Assistant at the Washington Bureau of *The Mainichi Newspapers* (*The Mainichi Shimbun*), the oldest daily newspaper in Japan.

I'm writing on behalf of *The Mainichi Newspapers* to kindly request an interview with you regarding the current status and future plans for the Savannah River Site (SRS) nuclear research and production facility. The US Department of Energy is expected to ship 331 kg of plutonium from Japan to South Carolina by the end of March, ahead of the Nuclear Security Summit, adding to the 13 metric tons of plutonium already at SRS. Meanwhile, plans for moving six metric tons of plutonium to a site in New Mexico for disposal have been stalled.

Our Economics Correspondent, Mr. Kenji Shimizu, would greatly appreciate the opportunity to meet with you and these are some of the issues he would like to discuss:

- Your thoughts on the potential impact of plans to scrap the mixed oxide fuel (MOX) project in 2017;
- Your expectations for South Carolina's lawsuit against DOE for failing to complete the MOX facility and remove plutonium;
- What you think about how the federal government can best deal with the issue of excess plutonium;
- How your administration can ensure that South Carolina does not become a "de facto permanent repository for nuclear waste." (Statement by Rep. Joe Wilson)

Would you be available for an interview with Mr. Shimizu anytime in February or March 2016? Please let me know what day/time is most convenient for you.

Japan is in a unique position, in that while it does not have nuclear weapons, it has the technology and plutonium required for development, and may send more plutonium to the US in the future, likely to the Savannah River Site. We strongly believe your extensive knowledge and authority on this issue will balance our article and help our readers better understand the situation and various ways to approach it. Your insight would be an invaluable aspect of the feature article we're planning.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Iva Kovacheva

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Note: *The Mainichi Newspapers* was founded in 1872 as the oldest national daily newspaper company in Japan. *Mainichi* is currently recognized in Japan as one of the leading national daily newspapers, and has garnered a reputation as a provider of unbiased reporting, poignant editorials and other information vital to a modern society. *Mainichi* has a nationwide circulation of 3.5 million copies.