

# Memorandum

**To:** Yoshihide Nakano  
Minamata City Farmer's Bureau

**From:** Dr. M. Howokaso  
Minamata Disease Research Committee

**Date:** Sept. 22, 1958

**Re:** Investigation of Agricultural Sites along the Bay

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Dear Mr. Nakano:

The Minamata Disease Research Committee was established from members of the Kumamoto University medical school in 1956 to solve the mystery of this disease. Despite intensive field research, there are still large voids in our knowledge.

We would like to request your cooperation in our investigation of this horrific disease by allowing us to research the agricultural discharge of our local farms. Our 1958 investigation will also include fish sampling and testing, water testing, research on the ammunition dump site, determining the chemical and biological inputs of the slaughterhouse into the bay, and research on the waste effluent of the Chisso Factory.

Your cooperation in this investigation is imperative to ending this outbreak. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Dr. M. Howokaso

# Memo

**Date:** 09/24/58  
**To:** Dr M. Howokaso  
**From:** Yoshihide Nakano  
**RE:** Investigation of Farms

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Dr. Howokaso:

I do not know what you will find in the farms along the bay. However, I do not want to stand in the way of your investigation. I have contacted four local farmers who will be expecting your visits. Two of the farmers have had a child die from the disease and are eager to help in the investigation. One of the farmers is reluctant, but I assured him that you were not trying to shut him down.

I assume you are looking for some toxic substance that is being discharged from the farms. The only toxic substances that I know are being used as herbicides and pesticides including the following:

- DDT (insecticide)
- Arsenic (for rodent control)
- Agent Orange (for defoliation)

I hope that this helpful.

Sincerely,



Y. Nakano