

# Memorandum

**To:** Ryoji Sakamota  
Minamata Slaughterhouse

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

**Date:** Sept. 22, 1958

**Re:** Investigation of Slaughterhouse

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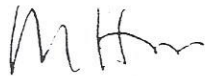
Dear Mr. Sakamota:

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 chemical and biological inputs of the slaughterhouse into the bay. Our 1958 investigation will also include fish sampling and testing, water testing, research on the ammunition dump site, the agricultural discharge, 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

MINAMATA SLAUGHTERHOUSE CO.

Oct. 2, 1958

Dear Dr. Howokaso :

My slaughterhouse is not responsible for Minamata Disease. I am incredibly offended that I have been included in a list with ammunition dumping and the Shin Nihon Chisso Chemical Company. However, I will not be the party who does not allow you to investigate because then I will be targeted as the source regardless of my innocence. Please do not publicize that I am a suspect because my slaughterhouse is located in Tsukinoura and there have been 14 incidents in this village alone.

You may examine the premises of the slaughterhouse. We are dumping no chemicals or toxic substances into the bay. We pump wastewater into the bottom of the Bay near Yudo, but it is not contaminated! We do not dump carcasses into the bay! Your search will be fruitless.

Sincerely,

*Ryoji Sakamota*

Ryoji Sakamota

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