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The Embassy of the Russian Federation in Japan  
Ambassador Mikhail Y. Galuzin

## **Calling for the Immediate Withdrawal of Russian Troops from Ukraine and an End to Attacks on Nuclear Power Plants**

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The International Atomic Energy Agency has announced that your country Russia's military has attacked and taken control of the Zaporizhye Nuclear Power Plant in Ukraine. As Japanese who have experienced Hiroshima, Nagasaki, the Daigo Fukuryu Maru (Lucky Dragon) incident, and the TEPCO Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant disaster, we cannot remain silent.

We were aghast at the news immediately after the invasion that your country took control of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant, which contaminated Europe 36 years ago and even vegetables and other products in Japan, 8,000 km away. We were further horrified by the reports that your country has bombed the Zaporizhye Nuclear Power Plant—one of the largest nuclear power plants in Europe with six reactors—while Ukrainians living in the vicinity had formed human chains to protect the site. Although the IAEA has reported that fortunately there are no radiation leaks, there is a great risk of chain reaction damage to the bombed reactors, and if the power lines are interrupted or otherwise lost due to attack, an accident more severe than Chernobyl and Fukushima will inevitably occur.

Many human lives would be lost in the aftermath of such an accident, and many more would suffer from radiation effects, including thyroid cancer, not only in Europe but across the globe.

It goes without saying that an armed invasion of an independent country is unacceptable from a humanitarian standpoint and prohibited by international law. The attack or suppression of a nuclear power plant, which would trigger radioactive contamination throughout Europe and the world, is likewise unacceptable for the same reason. As a proponent of nuclear power, your country has ironically demonstrated to the world that nuclear power is a nuclear weapon aimed at one's own country, and that maintaining nuclear power is a suicidal act that renders all national defense efforts meaningless. We hope that your country will immediately halt current attacks on nuclear power plants, as well as any further attacks on the South Ukraine Nuclear Power Plant and the invasion of Ukraine all together.