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To Prof. Nakano, Nagasaki University
9 December 1946

A PETITION

December 10, 1946

Your Excellency General MacArthur

Nagasaki Medical University
President Kōhei Koyano
Director of Student Activities
Kanetomo Matsushita

A petition concerning the reconstruction of the
Nagasaki Medical University

Dear Sir:

In 1856, Pompe van Meer dervolt came to Nagasaki. In 1860, he organized a Health Center in Nagasaki. Pompe became the teacher at the Nagasaki Health Center, and seven students including Tosei Itō and Naonaka Sato pursued the study of Western Medical Science.

In 1860, Ryōjun Matsumoto founded a hospital in Nagasaki which was known as Seitokukan. In 1868, the name Nagasaki Seitokukan was changed to Nagasaki Medical School. On the other hand, in February 1869, a Medical Center was founded in Tokyo known as the Shōhei Medical School that operated in the capacity of a University. In December of the same year, it was changed to Tokyo Medical University.

In 1871, the Minister of Education, Sensai Nagayo, accompanied Ambassador Iwakura to Europe and America to investigate the Western Medical System. Naotsune Sakai took over as head of the Nagasaki Medical School in place of Sensai Nagayo.

In 1895, Shibasaburō Kitazato was appointed Professor Emeritus of the University of Berlin.

After many changes, in 19²⁷(), the school was renamed the Nagasaki Medical University where many students from all over the country came together and studied medicine. However, on August 9, 1945, Nagasaki Medical University, being at the center of the atomic bomb explosion, was completely burned to the ground. All of the buildings collapsed, and over 1000 people including professors, students, nurses and patients were killed in an instant. Moreover, a countless number of people though alive suffer from serious wounds.

The Nagasaki Medical University was destroyed completely with no hope of recovering from its present condition as the Ministry of Education is said to have decided that the restoration of the Nagasaki Medical University is impossible. However, we believe that the Medical University has a grave duty and is essential for the treatment and help of patients affected by the atomic bomb. We desire your assistance in the continuity of the Nagasaki Medical University as the center of medical treatment in the future. The university has a great duty to contribute to the medical treatment and welfare of the people of Nagasaki.

Therefore, we invite you to consider the great importance of the mission of the university and we humbly ask for your permission and assistance in the restoration of the Nagasaki Medical University.

Very truly yours,

From Kazetomo Matsushita