



PRESS RELEASE

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UK GOVERNMENT DESPERATE TO RESCUE THEIR STALLED NUCLEAR POLICY APPLAUD PROPOSED DEAL BETWEEN HORIZON AND HITACHI

“Hitachi's £700m should be paid in compensation to the children of Fukushima; it should not be used to build nuclear power stations in Anglesey and Gloucestershire to endanger the health and lives of **our** children” says Jo Smoldon of the Stop Hinkley Campaign.

Bloomberg LP, leader in global business and financial information, reported on 23rd March 2011 the following story:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-03-23/fukushima-engineer-says-he-covered-up-flaw-at-shut-reactor.html>

Mitsuhiko Tanaka says he helped conceal a manufacturing defect in the \$250 million steel vessel installed at the Fukushima Dai-Ichi No. 4 reactor while working for a unit of [Hitachi Ltd. \(6501\)](#) in 1974. The reactor, which Tanaka has called a “time bomb,” was shut for maintenance when the March 11 earthquake triggered a 23 ft tsunami that disabled cooling systems at the plant, leading to explosions and radiation leaks.

For Tanaka, the nightmare intensified the next day when a series of explosions were triggered next to the reactor that he helped build. Since then, the risks of radioactive leaks increase as workers struggle to bring the plant under control.

Tanaka says the reactor pressure vessel inside Fukushima's unit No. 4 was damaged at a Babcock-Hitachi foundry in Kure City, in Hiroshima prefecture, during the last step of a manufacturing process that took two and a half years and cost tens of millions of dollars. If the mistake had been discovered, the company might have been bankrupted, he said.

Two years after Chernobyl Tanaka says he went to the Japanese Trade Ministry to report the cover-up he'd been involved in more than a decade earlier.

Tanaka said “The Government said, if Hitachi says they didn't do it, then there's no problem.”

To contact the reporter on this story: Jason Clenfield in Tokyo at jclenfield@bloomberg.net

To contact the editor responsible for this story: Peter Langan at plangan@bloomberg.net

Katy Attwater, Acting Press Officer, Stop Hinkley Campaign, 07980 731896 kattwater@hotmail.com