

Secret journey of Japanese plutonium

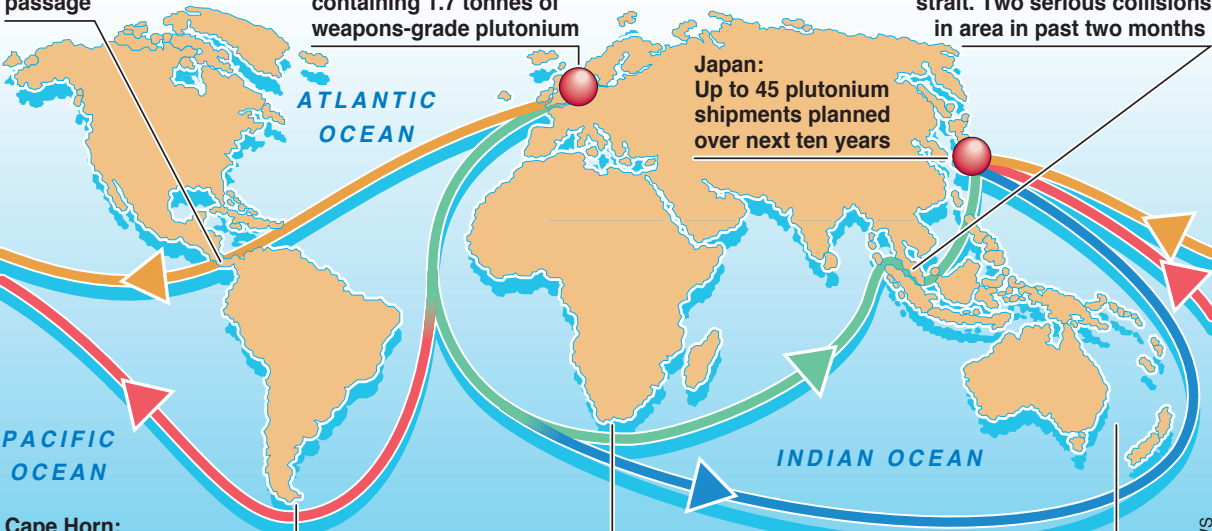
The Japanese ship Akatsuki Maru is expected to dock in Cherbourg shortly to pick up its cargo of plutonium – at 1.7 tonnes the largest amount of the substance ever to be transported. Sailing under armed escort, the ship may take any one of four routes back to Japan

Panama Canal:
U.S. considering legislation barring passage

Cherbourg:
Akatsuki Maru to be loaded with 133 lead-lined flasks containing 1.7 tonnes of weapons-grade plutonium

Strait of Malacca:
Indonesia and Malaysia insist ship does not enter strait. Two serious collisions in area in past two months

Japan:
Up to 45 plutonium shipments planned over next ten years



Cape Horn:
Argentina and Chile impose 200 mile exclusion zone – concerned over dangers of rough seas and icebergs

Cape of Good Hope:
South Africa demands minimum 200 mile exclusion zone

Pacific Island states:
Australia, New Zealand and other Pacific Island states demand consultation over possible passage