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Title: Junji Sarashina Interview
Narrator: Junji Sarashina
Interviewer: Naoko Wake
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NW: But by the 1970s, obviously, there was a group of, things like ASA.

JS: 1972.

NW: Right, okay. So, were you a member from the beginning, then?

JS: Ah, well, it wasn't ASA. At first, when it started, approximately 1972, the office workers from Hiroshima, ABCC is the name.

NW: ABCC? Well, okay.

JS: Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission.

NW: That's this institution in Japan.

JS: Yes, and maybe they call it, *hibaku, genbaku hōshasen kenkyū* . . .

NW: . . . *eikyū kenkyū-sho*.

JS: Yeah, yeah. It's in Hijiya. People from that office came here and talked about examining, something like that. Just happened that the representative who came here is my sister's acquaintance in the ABCC. Mr. Yamada is his name. He died many years ago, but. So my sister happened to know him, and of course, you know, at ABCC they met each other. So Mr. Yamada came here and came to my house. And you know, we took him up. And he says, "Oh, there's going to be a, and please come out to the meeting, come out and talk to us." So I said okay, for my sister's sake, I went along.

NW: Oh, so they wanted to know about survivors here in the States and your sister, because he was that sister's acquaintance, you agreed to do that, okay. And that was before the group of survivors here was established, was it? It was before 1972?

JS: I think it was semi-established by then.

NW: Ah, okay, okay.

JS: Mr. Okai, Mrs. Okai, was one of the A-bomb [survivors], she passed away many years [ago], but was one of the organizer, and she spoke in typical Hiroshima-ben, *kocchi kinsai-yo! iu yō na chōshi*.

NW: She's the first president of the CABS, right?

JS: Yeah. So I attended that meeting, and then I think it was 1972, 73, Mr. Thomas Noguchi, doctors, started to examine us, physically, the doctors can't touch us, the Japanese doctors can't touch, but he made an arrangement for us, you know, talked to him, he was a supporter of our group. And, that's how we started. Mr. Okai, I mean Mr. Arai, Mrs. Arai *ka?* Mrs. no, forgive me, *gomen nasai*, um, Mrs. Okai started, as the president, and then Mr. Arai became the second president. And that's how we started. And I got involved with it.

NW: So would you say that your awareness or your identity as a survivor might have been prompted, prompted by your increasing engagement with this group of survivors in the States? I know, I am, I am wondering, you have been very active in this group ASA, and I think you kind of need to have some kind of identity as a survivor to be that active. I don't even know if it's true, but I just wondered what prompted you to be that active and have an identity with that.

JS: Well when I talked to Mr. Yamada that was the main thing. He sort of explained everything to me. Until that, I think, by that time, I was working for a company called Northrop Corporation, which makes . . .

NW: After you were released from the army.

JS: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Northrop Corporation, and they were, well, they had a good insurance and well taken care of medical program. And I, insurance in the medical proper, they were taking care of me. And maybe that's the reason why I wasn't too concerned about the A-bomb survivor, because of the company was well established.

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