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Title: Paul Satoh Interview  
Narrator: Paul Satoh  
Interviewer: Naoko Wake  
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[Mr. Satoh's son Gordon Satoh was present at the interview, and when he speaks, he is denoted as GS]

<Begin Segment 20>

PS: Now uh, I know you have been answering many questions, and I know, maybe, you're getting tired a little bit, so I'd like to ask you a few remaining questions. So, maybe uh, you can tell me a little bit about the project that you told me earlier, which is about this uh, the prisoner of war for serving the U.S. army and then captured and that happened to be affected by the bomb. And I'd like to know where your interest is coming from. Obviously you're a survivor, so you're interested in this issue, but you also earlier described to me that you are a hidden survivor—hiding survivor, but in some ways, it sounds like you are coming out in working with this?

PS: Well I'll tell you, I—I have nothing to hide, actually. And I've been as candid as I can. And I think it's important for me to tell people what's happened. But, my feeling is—it really doesn't really help anybody else. I hope it does. Um, some people who organize think that yes, the experience will—sharing experience will help somebody else's side. In my, you know, in my feeling it's not. Instead, I spend most of the time in—the getting more harmony between scientists and the non-scientists. And, because I was in the industry for forty-five years, and past twelve years as the Vice President of Research at the Neo-Gen in Lansing. And I see so many scientists doesn't know a thing about business. And uh, the businessman doesn't want to know about science. So, this particular—two different worlds, is the one that is causing the issues in the societies. Uh, understanding what science—what the nuclear bomb does. And, the scientists knew what's happening. But, Roosevelt did not know much about it. Ok, if it kills 200,000 people in one second, hey, let's do it. And that type of mentality still exists in any societies now. And that's one of the reasons why I went to business school and took my MBA. And also I was testing my brain.

NW: [Chuckles]

PS: Because most of the—my friends who retired and don't do anything—they actually rapidly deteriorated. And by competing in that business school environment, young people and see how I can cope with this. And actually, I really feel much, much more confident than these people who are staying home. And uh, so that's what I did. And um, perhaps I'm probably using my time—more positive way of teaching the graduate students in engi—the engineering trying to develop the biosensors. And uh, to make it into a sellable materials. And uh, in other words, if you look at the engineering school, they don't teach you how practical it is and these professors don't want to tell students to make something practical. They think it's something bad. I said, no, you have

to have—if you—if you’re going to make something, you have to make something practical. And that’s why I’m doing now—teaching those, the uh, biosensors. Fortunately, this biosensor is so different that you can pick up nerve gas for military use much earlier than you get killed. The current sensor that we have on the market—by the time you know there’s the nerve gas, you’re dead. So, that’s one of the interesting philosophies I have. You have to defend yourself, and aggressively defend yourself. In other word—

NW: And that is related to your work . . . on this book, do you think?

PS: This book is uh—I was pulled in almost, because Mr. Bock [?] and I used to play a lot in my junior high and high school times. And uh . . .

NW: But he teaches at a Japanese university now? At Meiji?

PS: No, he doesn’t. He’s—he . . . he’s kind of interesting guy. He has never been a Catholic. He married a Catholic woman because he was teaching—he was studying piano for Yamaha piano. And uh, Mrs. Mori is a very—the Ireland Catholic, and her daughter Tamani [phonetic] is also a very strong Catholic. And um, however, um I didn’t know that he—when he married, because I was in this country at that time, and however, he was very close to my parents, because since I’m there in this country, so my parents almost adopted him as their kid. So, he used to drop in my house a lot. And uh, so I used to hear from him and from my parents about his activities. And that’s why I say . . . Sato, you have to help me this. So, I started writing letters to the survivors’ families. The first couple years I’ve been refused because they said what the heck is this, you know. A funny Japanese writing to me about dead relatives of mine and there must be something . . . But then, one day, uh . . .

NW: So you mean, not survivors’ families, but POWs’. Not survivors’ families.

PS: POWs . . . So, the doctor—Cartwright was the only one that survived. Because he was sent to Tokyo. And while he’s in Tokyo being interrogated, his crew member died in Hiroshima. So then I contacted Dr. Cartwright, and he was very nice to me. He accepted the—our invitation to start a conversation. So he worked with the other relatives of the POWs. And then, from that point, you get lots of information. And then in meantime, Japanese and the U.S. government had to release some of the so-called classified documents. The names of the uh . . . the POWs and their rankings and things like that. So, that’s the whole thing that he wrote this book. And uh, this year, because of the 70th anniversaries, uh, President Truman’s grandson is in the media industries, so he’s going to make—make the uh—he’s now making the uh, documentary movies. So . . .

NW: Mhm. He seems to be very active in, you know, investigating the history of the bomb.

PS: Yes.

NW: But. Yes, I know some other people who work with him. So that’s—that’s interesting that his name comes up in your con—in your comments about . . . yeah.

PS: Yes. It’s—that’s one of the things that the, um . . . You know, it’s interesting. If you, when we were kid, and at the, near Aioki-bashi, there was uh, the three shadows that the people were

watching the bomb to be, you know, exploding. And these three people evaporated. And left the shadow. Now, shadows are getting little by little—less and less. And in one shadows in Hiroshima—in the bank—staircase of the bank, there was another shadows that are disappearing. And the—when I see this, when somebody was exposed to that—you know, 6-to-7,000 fahrenheit, your body instantaneously evaporates. And uh, so, probably that is uh the, mur—you know, kindest way to kill somebody else, if you're gonna kill. But, does it really justify it? Because I have this means to kill somebody in the most kindest way—in one second—uh, I don't think it's the way to do that.

NW: And it happens only at the very nearby area of the hypocenter—it just changes the way the people die.

PS: And, well the United States was doing two experiments. One is the uranium bomb in Hiroshima. And then the other one is the plutonium bomb. And uh, they—so, scientifically, scientists are very much interested in know—knowing which bomb does the more damage. And that probably is one of the unconscionable way of using people as a target to test your own weapons.

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