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Blood

Box 4  
52-73-002

BUMED: 312:apl  
405  
19 April 1963  
Ser: 00205

NAV1.960105.018

From: Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery  
To: Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower) *153925*  
ATTN: Deputy Assistant Secretary (Health and Medical)

Subj: Collection of Blood from Donors Contaminated by Radioactive  
Fallout *#405 atl weekly NATO Europe*

Ref: (a) SHAPE 9360.01/18-9-10/63 of 14 Jan 1963

1. Reference (a) requested advise and comment with regard to the problem of collecting blood from donors who have been exposed to radioactive contamination.
2. There is a lack of sufficient knowledge and information upon which fixed specific recommendations can be made in this area.
3. Where the collecting of blood from radioactivity contaminated donors is being contemplated the concern would be directed most often to the donor whose hematopoietic elements may have been damaged than to any harmful product that might be transmitted to the recipient. However as a full protection for the recipient all such donor blood could be monitored and standard techniques and instrumentation might be developed for this purpose.
4. On the other hand, the potential danger of drawing blood from an individual who has been exposed to ionizing radiation of a significant degree and maybe suffering from the early stages of radiation sickness, is difficult to calculate. There has not been developed any reliable method of accurately and easily determining the amount of radiation received. If the donor showed evidence of any symptomology suggestive of radiation sickness, he certainly should be excluded as a potential donor. Conversely, if he were clinically well, the donation of a unit of blood would probably not adversely affect his chances of recovery should he later develop radiation sickness. One test procedure which could be added to those routinely employed under these circumstances would be a whole blood count where any evidence of neutropenia should probably be listed as ~~Classified for rejection~~.

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DECLASSIFIED  
by authority of DOD DIR 5200.1R 3.201  
date 1-16-73  
*rlu*

BUMED

DOWNGRADED AT 5 YEAR INTERVALS;  
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS  
DOD DIR 5200.10

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405 28 April 1963  
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5. Additionally donor monitoring criteria might be established. Tables and nomograms might be developed to limit acceptability of donors exposed to certain estimated levels or duration of direct radiation or to fallout contamination. Such criteria, nomograms, monitoring methods, etc., would best be developed by a panel of hematologists, radioisotope and radiation specialists.

A. S. CHRISMAN  
Acting

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DOWNGRADED TO UNCLASSIFIED;  
DECLASSIFIED ON 08-12-2010  
DOD DER 5200.10