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31 March 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR (RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY)

SUBJECT: Comments on Study of Radiobiology Research in DoD

Although the existing situation in the AFRRI program has several problems, and the role of DASA in management of AFRRI is not strongly defensible, the changes proposed in the "Report of DDR&E Ad Hoc Radiobiology Research Review Committee" would probably produce a worse situation. Based on the arguments given in the report I would recommend not following their proposed plan. My general reactions to the study follow.

1. The theme of the report appears to be reorienting AFRRI to a "medically oriented and directed" facility that would provide a base for military officers in nuclear medicine. They would have doctors work only for doctors, which is a nice arrangement, but not justifiable from a management viewpoint. I would like to have physicists work only for physicists, but they end up reporting thru the normal command chain. The continuing DoD need for such military medical staff is assumed by the committee without justification. I could postulate a similar continuing DoD need for a civilian R&D program in nuclear medicine or in NWER pertaining to biological system and get quite different conclusions. The relative priorities are not addressed.

2. The report proposes transferring AFRRI back to Navy management where it was earlier. There were serious enough problems to justify transfer to DASA before, and there are no guarantees that the same problems would not arise again. Rather than pointing exclusively to AFIP as an example of a good laboratory management arrangement, consideration should be given to other labs with defense-wide missions under single service management. They often tend to be orphans. When budget pressures rise, the service tends to cut them very early. DDR&E can no longer protect them in the services as well as before. Under a defense agency they are much more defensible.

3. Before agreeing to any transfer from DASA, it would be necessary to see the mechanism by which DASA would be guaranteed access to AFRRI to get its NWE radiobiology work done. Although the report states this should be done, it does not state how and probably is incompatible with the proposed Navy management.

WNRC: 13 Jan 95:

RG: 330

Accession # 75-0047

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File: 95 Organization 1970, JAN-DEC

4. The report is not careful in discussing subjects such as the
DASA NWER program, which is a \$50 million program including many proj-
ects. The report repeatedly states the NWER program is approaching
completion, which it is not. I presume they mean the NWER pertaining
to radiobiology but this is never qualified. They include references
to NWER programs in blast and flashblindness protective materiel, which
are probably not radiobiology.

I would be interested to discuss the report further at your con-
venience.

[SIGNED]

W. W. Carter
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(Nuclear Programs)

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