



ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RADIATION EXPERIMENTS
1726 M STREET, N.W., SUITE 600
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036

RCC1.940929.001

June 22, 1994

Dr. Gordon Soper
Principal Deputy to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Atomic Energy
Department of Defense
The Pentagon, Room 3E1074
Washington, D.C. 20301-3050

Dear Dr. Soper:

As discussed with you and other members of the Department of Defense (DOD) search team on June 17 and 20, 1994 this letter is to summarize: 1) the procedures that DOD and Committee staff will follow to ensure that search efforts are efficient and productive, 2) the status of the search and search strategy; 3) the priority requests that we would expect would be substantially responded to by the production of documents in advance of the next (July 5-6) Committee meeting.

General Procedures: In general, Committee requests for documents and information are to go through the "RECC center"--- that is, yourself and/or Colonel Bailey. The Department of Defense and Committee staff will meet weekly (by phone, as appropriate) to discuss search strategy, requests, and status. The central coordination of requests will be accompanied by staff meetings with the services (and DNA) to discuss the particulars of these agencies, and meetings between staff and DOD historians and record managers on the particulars of search strategy.

The basic goal is to provide a timely and efficient flow of useful information, based on mutual efforts to identify and retrieve likely collections of useful data, and to identify priorities and performance expectations. Towards that end, we will provide you with our best information on the location of useful documentation, and set priorities with an eye to DOD resource constraints and likely payoffs.

Search Status: The Phase I DOD search was directed at identifying entities that sponsored/conducted experiments, at identifying particular experiments, and at identifying the location of documents related to these experiments. With the apparent exception of the Army, which we understand will shortly update its list of experiments, the DOD components have turned in essentially final lists of experiments to the "RECC center".

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RECC
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DNA and the Army have reported that they did not search for "intentional release" experiments, although this was called for by DOD's January 31 search guidance. We note that the Committee's charter, and the January 31, 1994 DOD guidance expressly refers to six Army "radiation warfare" experiments and four "radiation tracking" experiments, and other specific "intentional releases" in which DOD may have been involved. It is our understanding that DOD agencies now are searching for, and will retrieve, and provide to us information on these experiments, in advance of the Committee's July 5 meeting.

Search Strategy: The Phase I search resulted in the identification of many experiments; however, in many cases only limited data about the experiments has been identified. In order to provide the context that may render evaluation of experiments meaningful, and to provide a check on the initial process of identification, we propose to focus the next phase on a search of Headquarters/policy documentation. As this documentation is obtained, we should be able to proceed with a more focused search for data on a sampling(s) of the experiments that have been identified. (In the interim, we may request retrieval of data on individual experiments, including those presently ongoing, to the extent that retrievable data has been identified.)

As we have discussed, it is suggested that the immediate focus of this phase be:

- 1) records of DOD-wide and service specific R&D coordination groups, as relates to radiation research and the programmatic use of this research;
- 2) records bearing on the development and implementation of DOD ethics policies, particularly the 1953 policy issued by Secretary Wilson;
- 3) relevant portions of agency histories related to biomedical/radiation research, programs that used such research, and radiation warfare;
- 4) selected collections likely to contain data on radwarfare experimentation;
- 5) records of specific programs, panels, advisory committees or policy groups as we mutually identify on a DOD-wide or service specific basis.

As discussed, our staff will work with your staff to identify the location of collections that appear to be fruitful. We have previously transmitted a memo regarding DNA. We enclose a memo on OSD files.¹

¹Of course, our ability to identify relevant collections is limited, particularly where they are largely classified and/or are not maintained in the National Archives. For example, while the attached OSID memo identifies the archival location of some files of the Joint Panel on the Medical Aspects of Atomic Warfare, it may well be that further files of which we are unaware are located in records centers or elsewhere. Similarly, the records presently available to us do not provide a clear picture of the fate of this group. When your knowledge of DOD records is combined with the understanding that should be gained from the presently identifiable Joint Panel files we should have clues to the location of further, related records.

Specific Priorities: By letter of May 23 to you, and by memos of June 8 and 15 to DNA and the Army, we have transmitted a number of service-specific and DOD-wide requests. In the last three cases the requests were "action items" that followed upon meetings between Committee and DOD staffs. Some of these requests have been responded to in part, but the majority are outstanding.²

We therefore request that the Committee be provided substantial documentary responses to, at least, a limited and targeted group of requests in advance of the next, July 5-6, meeting. Dr. Faden and the Committee are eager to move this portion of our work forward as rapidly as possible. Dr. Faden has indicated that the extent to which this request is met will be a subject of discussion at the Committee's next meeting.

Specifically, we request that, in addition to the intentional release documentation, the following be assigned highest priority and substantially responded to in advance of the July 5 meeting. (please let us know if you believe the priorities could be better placed).

Army: With reference to the June 15 memo to the Army, we suggest highest priority be given to item 3 (documents related to the Army ethics policy), item 4 (summary documentation of Army histories), and item 8 (documentation related to Army R&D coordinating bodies). In addition, we understand that Colonel Bailey's group is hard at work in search of item 6 (items referenced in the 1975 Inspector General Report.) In addition, we assume we will get the updated experiment list.

DNA: With reference to the June 8 memo to DNA, we suggest item 4 (AFRRJ Board of Governors Minutes), item 5 (portions of periodic and program histories related to biomedical research programs, the Medical Division...and/or radiological warfare research and programs), item 8 ("QRR" documentation), item 11 (budget level division writeups), and item 15 (records on coordination of R&D funds and R&D programmatic documentation).

OSD: With reference to our discussions and the attached memo, we suggest that, in advance of the next meeting, OSD provide: 1) the files of the Joint Panel on the Medical Aspects of Atomic Warfare (Entry # 341 of Record Group # 330 at the Washington, D.C. National

²We have received little or no documentation in response to the DNA and Army requests. The May 23 letter, and a May 9 letter sent to all agencies, sought documentation of the development and implementation of DOD and service-specific ethics policies. We have now received many documents in which DOD and service policies are stated, and have just received some significant documentation underlying the development of the 1953 DOD policy. However, we have received little documentation of actual policy implementation, e.g., records showing Secretarial (or delegatee) review of individual experiments, (particularly those in the pre-1974 period).

We have received a complete copy of the 1975 Army Inspector General report bearing on the 1953 policy, but have not yet been provided with requested documentation cited in the report. The May 23 letter also identified 10 questions concerning the "Cincinnati experiments." We have received a partial, albeit oral, answer to one of these questions (i.e., that Dr. Saenger was given a top secret clearance in 1954), and received a partial documentary response to another (i.e., progress reports for two related experiments). We have received no formal answers to the further questions. We have received limited data on the identity of organizations that set policy for, advised on, coordinated, funded, and/or used radiation R&D, as also requested in the May 23 letter. We have not received, as also requested, any portions of the requested histories of radiological experiments, including the Dugway intentional releases.

Archives, and the pertinent documentation that may be contained in the Record Group # 330 files at the Washington National Records Center); 2) relevant files of the Committee on Medical Science (as also identified in the attachment), and 3) Medical Policy Council files relating to the development and implementation of the 1953 ethics policy and/or human experimentation, as may be contained in the files identified in "II" in the attached memo.³ In addition, it is requested that inquiry be made into the location of the records of the panel(s) or other organization(s) that assumed the responsibility of the Joint Panel and the Committee on Medical Science.

Air Force and Navy: While, as noted, we have not had specific meetings with these services, we would hope to obtain, in advance of the July 5 meeting: 1) files related to ethics policy development and implementation, particularly for pre-1974 period; 2) relevant files of R&D coordinating groups; 3) pertinent portions of agency histories related to radiation experimentation and/or programmatic use of experimental data.⁴ In addition, given its major radiological research role, and the present inability to locate its records, we are particularly interested in documentation related to the Naval Radiobiological Defense Laboratory (NRDL) that might shed light on its experimental activities, its disestablishment, and the procedures governing its records and record disposition.

Finally, it is requested that a start be made to declassify collections, such as radwarfare, that likely contain a high percentage of classified documents. We propose that the following be reviewed immediately and that initial declassified materials be provided in advance of the next meeting:

1. The approximately 51 Armed Forces Special Weapons Project (AFSWP) radiation warfare files contained in Records Group # 374, as further identified in the memos provided.
2. The Military Liaison Committee radiation warfare files in Entry # 184 of Record Group #330, as also identified in the memos provided.

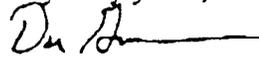
In sum, the above is an effort to get (or keep) the ball rolling. As noted above, our preliminary review of the materials received from Colonel Bailey on June 21, indicates that it contains, at least, useful and important documentation of the 1953 ethics policy development. We expect that, through weekly meetings and on-going, records-specific, staff interchange, we can work together to efficiently identify and mine the record collections that will provide the public, DOD, and the Committee with the raw material on which the story that is to be told must be based.

³ We note that in the documents we received yesterday, June 21, from Colonel Bailey, for which we are appreciative, there is reference to discussions of human experimentation policy at 1) a January 8, 1953 meeting of the Joint Secretaries Group; 2) October 30-31, 1952 and early 1953 meetings of the Committee on Medical Science; and 3) the March 1953 meeting of the Basic Research Group. Thus, the files of these groups, if they can be identified and retrieved, appear to contain materials of direct relevance to, at least, Secretary Wilson's ethic policy.

⁴We have received some agency history material from the Air Force, and will discuss this area further with the Air Force at our June 28 meeting

We look forward to working with you.

Very truly yours,



Dan Guttman
Executive Director

cc:

Colonel Bailey

Ruth Faden

Members of the Advisory Committee - Subcommittee on Cold War Discovery