



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

Major General Kenneth L. Hagemann  
 Director  
 Defense Nuclear Agency  
 Valley Federal Building  
 6801 Telegraph Road  
 Alexandria, Va. 22310

By Facsimile

August 12, 1994

Dear General Hagemann: *h*

This letter is to thank you and your staff, including Colonel Callaway, the library and declassification group, and document reviewers and computer personnel, for the very helpful briefing that DNA provided to us on August 11.

As described in the briefing, we understand that DNA is in the process of box-by-box review of all DNA documents maintained in the National Archives and a thorough review of records in the Washington National Records Center. (We understand that all DNA field office records are stored in these Washington-area locales).

We were impressed by DNA's commitment to fully and carefully identify and retrieve within the next few weeks all documents that may reasonably be related to the Committee's inquiry into human experimentation. It should be of particular value that the initial review will result in indices and databases which will permit the Committee, and the public, to follow up the initial retrieval with further, more focused, search requests.

As we discussed, documentation (provided by DOD) shows that in the early 1950's the DOD Joint Panel on the Medical Aspects of Atomic Warfare (Joint Panel) contemplated experimental activities in connection with atomic bomb tests, including psychological studies, measurement of radioactive isotopes in the body fluids of test personnel, fly throughs of atomic clouds, and other activities which may have involved human subjects. (Under separate cover we are transmitting to Colonel Callaway a selection of Joint Panel documents in which these activities are proposed).

Preserving for later discussion whether these activities constituted experiments, we understand that documents relating to activities considered by the Joint Panel (or by related or successor biomedical groups) will be searched for and provided. The matter is of particular interest. These activities were proposed at the same time that DOD medical circles (including military and civilian personnel, and civilian medical advisors) were engaged in the discussion of



the ethics of human experimentation which resulted in the February 1953 issuance, by the Secretary of Defense, of a policy similar to the Nuremberg Code. Documents also appear to show that, following the issuance of this policy, psychological observations, human body fluid testing, and cloud fly throughs and other activities that might be deemed experimental were, indeed, conducted in connection with atomic tests.

We also noted our interest in assuring that the search not be confined to the 1940's-50's, but include experiments (and related policies and programs) through later periods. You mentioned the great care that DNA is taking to ensure the integrity of the human experimentation that is presently being conducted. The Committee is engaged in a study of contemporary, as well as historic, practices. In addition to basic documentation on ongoing experiments, I am sure that the Committee would be interested in DNA's views on the adequacy and value of current regulatory protocol.

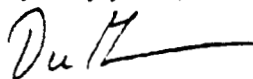
We are most appreciative of your offer to declassify in the immediate future the table of contents of the (approximately 530) DNA histories. Once the contents are provided, we will be able to identify sections for further declassification review (or review in a classified mode, where declassification is not obtained).

As discussed, we anticipate receiving a substantial amount of documentation from DNA prior to the Committee's next meeting (September 12), and that significant materials should be available to us by the end of August. In addition, DNA will make available the finding aids and other database material it is compiling in order that, following receipt of the material now being retried, we may be able to efficiently work together on such focused follow up as is appropriate.

We will communicate requests formally through Dr. Soper, but, as discussed, we expect that continued direct communications will be of great value.

We look forward to working closely with Mrs. Pierre, Colonel Callaway and other DNA staff in both developing the information needed to tell the American public the full story human radiation experimentation, and to discussing the nature and meaning of the story, and the lessons that may be learned.

Very truly yours,



Dan Guttman

cc: Dr. Gordon Soper  
Colonel Claud Bailey