

~~SECRET~~THIS DOCUMENT CONSISTS OF 2 PAGESNO. 1 OF 2 SERIES A*Office Memorandum* • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : E. H. Marsden

DATE: February 13, 1947

FROM : R. C. Armstrong

SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON REPORT OF THE 23 - 24 JANUARY 1947 OF THE INTERIM
MEDICAL COMMITTEE, U. S. ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

SYMBOL: EIDMK-40

1. In briefly reviewing the subject report the following items were noted which are believed applicable to the present discussions of Medical research policies.

2. Section II, Current Medical Research Program: The board has recommended that the current programs be continued during the fiscal year 1947-48. The programs as listed indicate the following specific instances of human application and research.

a. University of Rochester (page 8)

(1) Paragraph c 2a (2) - Provides for the use of tracer amounts of polonium, radium and uranium on humans.

(2) Paragraph c 2a (7) - Study of metabolism of plutonium, polonium, radium, etc. in human subjects.

b. University of California (page 10)

(1) Paragraph c 3a (1) - Study of metabolism of fission products, radium, actinium, protoactinium, uranium, neptunium, plutonium, americium and curium in man.

(2) Paragraph c 3a (6) - Study of alpha particle irradiation on the thyroid gland in man by use of astatine (element 85).

(3) Paragraph c 3c (1) - Studies of whole body radiation of human subjects by external and internal radiation.

(4) Paragraph c 3c (2) - Study on the metabolism of radioactive iodine in man.

c. Los Alamos (page 15)

(1) Paragraph c 10a (2) - Determination of the fraction of injected plutonium excreted per day by humans.

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d. There are numerous other items in the programs as outlined which intimate the use of human subjects in the therapeutic applications and research investigations using special project materials.

3. In the agenda for the meeting, Recommendations for Future Research Policy (Paragraph III), Human Testing with Special Materials was listed as a separate item. However, the report as submitted does not indicate that this matter was discussed nor were any recommendations made.

4. Other items of general overall interest are:

a. Paragraph II B (page 7) - Recommendation is made that the future medical and biological research program be based on long term contracts (5 years or more).

b. Paragraph II D 2 (page 18) - It is recommended that the eventual total Health-Safety research budget should be equivalent to approximately 20-25% of the total research effort of the A.E.C.

c. Paragraph IV, Training Program (page 21) - It is recommended that an extensive training program in the field of Health-Safety be sponsored by the A.E.C. with particular emphasis on present project personnel.

d. Paragraph V C (page 23) - It is proposed that a Division of Health-Safety be established on a level with the statutory Divisions of Production, Research, Engineering and Military applications.

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