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SIXTY-FIRST MEETING

of the

ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE

UNITED STATES ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

MARCH 15-16, 1957

U. S. Atomic Energy Commission  
1717 H Street Northwest  
Washington, D. C.  
Room 1062

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COMMISSION**

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AGENDA

Friday, March 15, 1957

- 9:00- 9:30 I. Preliminary Remarks
- Presiding Dr. G. Failla
- Opening Remarks Dr. C. L. Dunham
1. Introduction of New Staff
2. Report on AEC & DEM Activities *(See Folder)*
- 9:30-11:00 II. Review of Material Relating to Research Proposals
- 11:00-11:15 Coffee Break
- III. Atoms for Peace
- 11:15-11:45 1. Report on Puerto Rican Trip Dr. C. W. Shilling  
Dr. P. B. Pearson
- 11:45-12:10 2. Support for American Institute  
of Agricultural Science Dr. P. B. Pearson
- 12:10-12:30 3. AFL-CIO Conference on Radiation  
Hazards Dr. W. D. Claus
- 12:30- 1:45 Lunch
- 1:45- 2:00 4. Inter-American Symposium on  
Peaceful Application of Nuclear  
Energy, Brookhaven Nat. Lab. Dr. J. R. Totter
5. 2nd International Conference on  
Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy Dr. J. R. Totter

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|-------------|---|--|
| 2:00- 2:15  | IV. Current Status of DEM Budget,<br>FY 1957-58                         | <u>Mr. H. A. Stanwood</u>                          |
|             | V. Committee Reports  |  |
| 2:15- 2:30  | 1. NAS Committee on Oceanography  | <u>Dr. A. H. Seymour</u>                           |
| 2:30- 2:45  | 2. Toxicological Info. Center   | <u>Dr. T. S. Ely</u>                               |
| 2:45- 3:00  | 3. U. N. Scientific Committee   | <u>Dr. Shields Warren</u>                          |
| 3:00- 3:15  | <u>Coffee Break</u>   |  |
| 3:15- 3:30  | 4. AEC-FCDA-DOD Classified Info.<br>Committee                           | <u>Mr. R. L. Corsbie</u>                           |
| 3:30- 4:00  | 5. Report of Advisory Committee<br>on UT-AEC Program                    | <u>Dr. P. B. Pearson</u>                           |
|             | VI. Miscellaneous   |  |
| 4:00- 4:30  | 1. Status of Bone Marrow<br>Transplants                                 | <u>Dr. H. D. Bruner</u>                            |
| 4:30- 4:50  | 2. Plans for Rongelap Long<br>Term Ecology Study                        | <u>Dr. J. N. Wolfe</u><br><u>Dr. A. H. Seymour</u> |
| 4:50- 5:00  | 3. Current FCDA Shelter Policy  | <u>Mr. R. L. Corsbie</u>                           |
|             | <u>Saturday, March 16, 1957</u>   |  |
|             | VI. Miscellaneous (Cont'd.)   |  |
| 9:00- 9:15  | 4. Discussion of Gentry Manuscript                                      | <u>Dr. S. Emerson</u>                              |
|             | VII. Weapons Program  |  |
| 9:15-10:00  | 1. Briefing on 1957 Weapons Tests &<br>Civil Effects Test Participation | <u>Mr. R. L. Corsbie</u>                           |
| 10:00-10:15 | Committee Discussion  |  |

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VII. Weapons Program (Cont'd.)

- |             |   |                          |
|-------------|---|--------------------------|
| 10:15-10:35 | 2. Onsite & Offsite Radiological Safety Criteria - Oprn. PLUMBBOB | <u>Dr. G. M. Dunning</u> |
| 10:35-10:50 | 3. Pu Project at NTS  | <u>Dr. G. M. Dunning</u> |
|             | 4. Transportation & Storage of Special Weapons                    | <u>Dr. G. M. Dunning</u> |
| 10:50-11:00 | Committee Discussion  |                          |
| 11:00-11:15 | <u>Coffee Break</u>   |                          |

VIII. Sunshine Program

- |             |  |  |
|-------------|--|--|
| 11:15-11:30 | 1. Status of Operation Sunshine  | <u>Dr. C. L. Dunham</u><br><u>Dr. F. Western</u> |
| 11:30-11:45 | 2. Up-dating of Worldwide Fallout Data                                     | <u>Mr. M. Eisenbud</u>                           |
| 11:45-12:00 | 3. World-wide Food Sampling  | <u>Dr. P. B. Pearson</u>                         |
| 12:00-12:15 | Committee Discussion   |  |
| 12:15- 1:30 | <u>Lunch</u>   |  |
| 1:30- 2:00  | 4. The Importance of Soils in the Radioactive Contamination of Food Chains | Dr. R.F.Reitemeier                               |

2:00- IX. Meeting of ACBM and Dr. W. F. Libby

X. Committee Business

1. Review & Approval of Minutes - Jan. 18-19, 1957 Mtg.
2. Place & Date of Next Meeting
3. Executive Session

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M I N U T E S

61st MEETING OF

A. E. C. ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE

PLACE: *Washington, D. C.*

DATE : *March 14, 15, 16, 1957*

- 1 -

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DOE ARCHIVES

On March 15<sup>1957,</sup> the Committee meeting convened at 9:10 a.m. with  
Dr. G. Failla presiding. The following persons were present:

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Dr. G. Failla, Chairman  
Dr. Shields Warren, Vice Chairman      Dr. Simeon T. Cantril  
Dr. John C. Bugher                      Dr. H. Bentley Glass  
Dr. Charles H. Burnett  
Mr. Hanson Blatz, Scientific Secretary  
Miss Rosemary Elmo, Administrative Secretary

STAFF, DIVISION OF BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE

|                      |                          |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Dr. C. L. Dunham     | Dr. W. D. Claus          |
| Dr. C. W. Shilling   | Dr. T. S. Ely            |
| Mr. H. C. Brown, Jr. | Dr. W. H. Richardson     |
| Dr. H. D. Bruner     | Mr. R. W. Johnston       |
| Dr. A. H. Seymour    | Dr. C. V. Harding        |
| Dr. J. Haggerty      | Dr. Sterling Emerson     |
| Dr. P. B. Pearson    | Dr. J. N. Wolfe          |
| Dr. G. M. Dunning    | Dr. J. R. Totter         |
| Dr. Elda Anderson    | Dr. Paul Henshaw         |
| Mr. R. L. Corsbie    | Mr. W. W. Schroebel      |
| Mr. L. J. Deal       | Mr. Ward Miller          |
| Mr. G. Anton         | Miss Kathryn E. Weichold |
| Dr. R. F. Reitemeier | Miss Evelyn Humerick     |
| Dr. J. F. Bonner     |                          |

OTHER, AEC

Mr. William Berman (OGC)  
Mr. Christian Beck (C & S)

The meeting was turned over by the Chairman to Dr. Dunham for presentation of the progress report of the Division of Biology and Medicine.

CURRENT DBM  
ACTIVITIES

Staff Changes DR. DUNHAM spoke of a number of changes in the staff and introduced the following new members: Dr. Elda Anderson (on temporary loan from the Oak Ridge National Laboratory until July 1, 1957), who is working on the health physics training program; Mr. W. W. Schroebel, Civil Defense Liaison Branch; Mr. W. H. Richardson, Program Coordination Branch;

Mr. L. Joe Deal, who has returned to the Division from the Division of Civilian Application. Dr. Victor Beard is expected to report on April 1, 1957 to direct the Industrial Health Program. The following staff members have left the Division: Mr. Ward Miller, who has transferred to the Commerce Department and Mr. R. L. Butenhoff, who has transferred to the National Science Foundation.

Radiation Policies Dr. Claus has been devoting most of his time to the three policy papers dealing with (a) contractor regulations, (b) the report of radiation incidents and (c) the matter of transmitting radiation records to employees.

International Relations Mr. Eisenbud is on a three-month leave from the Commission to work with the U.N. Preparatory Commission for the International Atomic Energy Agency. DR. DUNHAM also spoke of the need for a replacement for Dr. Eve as Radiation Specialist with the World Health Organization and asked for suggestions. Dr. Bond, Dr. Looney, Dr. Dodson, Dr. Hennessy and Dr. Bloom were all mentioned as possible candidates.

ABCC and UCLA No particularly new development was reported as far as the ABCC is concerned. Dr. Cannan is in Japan at present and recruitment at the assistant professor level appears to be going well.

DR. DUNHAM spoke of recent discussions with Dr. Stafford Warren about the UCLA project. A separate building has been requested instead of the wing previously discussed. Committee members agreed that an effort should be made to keep the project integrated with medical school activities. DR. FAILLA asked if a resolution was required regarding the UCLA program and its tendency to separate from the University Medical Program. A general discussion in which the undesirability of such a separation was agreed upon followed but there was no resolution.

CURRENT DEM  
ACTIVITIES  
(continued)

AEC-HEW Relations DR. DUNHAM discussed the relationship between the AEC and Department of Health, Education and Welfare, particularly with respect to the proposed Neuberger Act. He told of correspondence and meetings with the Department of Health, Education and Welfare and expressed the opinion that the working relationships were quite satisfactory with little conflict. A letter from the AEC Chairman to the Secretary of HEW is planned to outline the program of common activities in order to formalize relationships.

Congressional Activities DR. DUNHAM commented that the proposed Neuberger Bill would appear to constitute a duplication of present AEC functions and also with present HEW relationships with the states. The current activities of the National Institute of Health Radiation Study Section of which Howard Curtis is Chairman was described. There appears to have been a letter from Dr. Curtis to Dr. Allen which was reported to have been prepared by Dr. Nickson, in which the Neuberger Act approach was supported. DR. SHILLING stated that Dr. Shannon had asked for a conference at which the Neuberger Bill was discussed. Dr. Shannon has helped Senator Neuberger prepare the bill and HEW has plans for its administration. DR. GLASS expressed the opinion that the Division should encourage the Public Health Service to act as quickly as possible with regard to the Neuberger Bill proposal since the bill appears to be far superior to proposed State legislation in spite of certain shortcomings of the Neuberger proposal. DR. WARREN told of the value of the Massachusetts coordinator, who had been useful in preventing jurisdictional disputes between State Departments in these matters. DR. FAILLA expressed concern because of the acute scientific manpower shortage and also felt that a new agency would result in decreased budget for the AEC. Arrangements were made for the Committee to receive copies of the bill for further discussion.

The recent 202 Hearings included little coverage on biomedical matters but it is expected that approaching Joint Committee Hearings will involve considerable staff work, one on insurance and indemnity in which the Brookhaven reactor hazards study will be reported and the other on fallout. The fallout hearing will involve a study by a special group including Dr. Selove of the FAS, Dr. Dunham, Mr. Lauriston Taylor, Dr. H. Friedell and Dr. H. B. Glass. Dr. Glass reported on a preliminary hearing with Mr. Hollister and complimented Mr. Hollister on his preliminary outline.

RESEARCH  
PROGRAM

DR. SHILLING was introduced in order to review research proposals. He asked if the Committee found the report forms of sufficient value to justify the great amount of work involved. DR. FAILLA expressed the opinion that the advisory function of the ACBM would be assisted by the reports in keeping the Committee well informed as to the research program. DR. BURNETT and DR. WARREN also expressed the opinion that the reports were very helpful.

DR. WARREN suggested that the expansion of the type of work being done by Dr. Kulp on skeleton analysis would be advisable. DR. DUNHAM reported that efforts are being made to obtain children's skeletons and the program is being expanded to include Nuclear Science Engineering, Isotopes, Inc., HASL, Kulp, the University of Washington, and Hanford (occasionally), the Argonne National Laboratory and the Scripps Institute. DR. WARREN expressed the need for the rapidly increasing body of data on humans, particularly of the growing concern of the Japanese. He also believes that pathological examinations should be included. A lengthy discussion followed regarding various aspects of the sampling program and the revision of maximum permissible levels and concentrations. DR. FAILLA again suggested the desirability of comparative study to determine the variability between the labs (such a study has since been distributed to all of the Committee members). The meeting recessed at 11:10 a.m. for twenty minutes.

After re-convening, the meeting was turned over to DR. SHILLING to describe several aspects of the Atoms for Peace program. He told of the recent visit to the University of Puerto Rico in which he was accompanied by a delegation of scientists.

ATOMS FOR  
PEACE

DR. PEARSON described some of the aspects of the Puerto visit and also told of the plans for the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Science.

DR. TOTTER reported on the forthcoming symposium to be held at Brookhaven National Laboratory and also on preliminary plans for the Second International Conference on Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy. It was suggested that any proposed items be sent to Dr. Totter for possible inclusion in the final agenda.

AFL-CIO  
CONFERENCE

DR. CLAUS reported on the AFL-CIO Conference and any possible effect on the responsibility of the Division of Biology and Medicine. The opinion was expressed at the meeting that the U.S. is lagging in reactor development and the AEC was criticised by labor representatives and also by Representative Holifield. DR. CLAUS recommended that the AEC contacts with labor be improved and that a series of joint seminars be held with labor representatives. DR. GLASS expressed hearty approval of the proposal to hold seminars. A general discussion of the subject followed after which the meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m. until 1:50 p.m..

BUDGET

In Mr. Stanwood's absence DR. DUNHAM presented the status of the budget for which some additional funds have been allotted. Allotments for next year, as of now, have been cut slightly from the amounts requested. The construction program, however, is at a standstill and the new physics facilities at Brookhaven will not be allowed.

COMMITTEE  
REPORTS

DR. SEYMOUR reported on the National Academy of Sciences Committee on oceanography and DR. ELY reported on the Toxicological Information Center.

DR. WARREN gave a status report of the UN Scientific Committee. The principal current interest of the Committee, which is to meet in Geneva in April, is an appraisal of the genetics aspects of radiation and its relationship to fallout.

DR. BUGHER submitted a report from India in which levels of 5 r per year gamma radiation to about 20,000 people was reported. He spoke further of this report and some of the uncertainties involved.

U OF T-AEC  
PROGRAM

DR. PEARSON reported on the University of Tennessee-AEC Program. This program had been discussed at a number of previous ACBM meetings and had been troublesome for many years. Lack of leadership appears to have been one of the fundamental problems. Solutions have been suggested in the past but the problem of administration has not been solved. Dr. Failla suggested that possibly a lack of interest by the University of Tennessee or the AEC was responsible. Dr. Dunham said that the University of Tennessee is now becoming increasingly interested but Dr. Failla responded that this has been going on for two years. Dr. Pearson expressed the opinion that there had been some worthwhile results in the last year but that there was room for considerable improvement.

MISCELLANEOUS  
REPORTS

DR. BRUNER reported on the subject of bone marrow transplants as a method of treating whole body radiation and aplastic anemia. Five hundred thousand dollars have been allotted for this program at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. 90 to 95% of the work in this field is being supported by the AEC. DR. BUGHER asked if there had been any exchange of information with Harwell but Dr. Bruner has replied that there had not been. An extensive discussion

MISCELLANEOUS  
REPORTS  
(continued)

among Committee members followed. DR. DUNHAM stated that Dr. Hollander requested money for a bone marrow center and asked if the Committee wished to comment. Dr. Glass stated that a paper recently submitted to Science received an adverse comment from the referee, although he himself would have approved it. Dr. Bugher said that such additional support should be considered in terms of possible cutbacks in other areas of investigation.

DR. WOLFE and DR. SEYMOUR then submitted a joint report on plans for a long range ecology study of Rongelap. This involves study of the climate, soil, water and biology. Dr. Warren asked if the return of the Rongelapese would result in their ability to support themselves on either fresh or canned food. It appears as if they have had imported food in recent years. A discussion was held concerning the possible effects of continued use of Eniwetok for tests and the effect of any coming British tests.

MR CORSBIE next presented the current FCDA shelter program. In addition to the scientific aspects he mentioned the proposal that federal loans and income tax deductions be made to encourage construction of shelters. Some shelters are already being built in connection with school building construction and are proposed under the planned federal school bill. A discussion of the danger of extensive use of plate glass in structures followed. The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m..

DR. BUGHER gave a brief talk in the evening after dinner on his recent visit to India.

The meeting was re-convened at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, March 16 under the chairmanship of Dr. G. Failla. In addition to those present at the Friday session, the following were in attendance:

STAFF, DIVISION OF BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE

Dr. Forrest Western

OTHER, AEC

Cdr. J. W. Crawford  
Mr. L. Mohr  
Mr. S. A. Anthony  
Mr. W. Maher  
Mr. C. R. Mc Cullough  
Mr. H. M. Radley  
Mr. Merrill Eisenbud

GENTRY  
MANUSCRIPT

DR. EMERSON discussed the Gentry manuscript. Dr. John Gentry, District Health Officer of Syracuse, New York, has submitted a manuscript to Science in which he indicates a rather strong correlation between congenital malformations, as reported on birth certificates, and terrestrial radiation as indicated by an AEC raw materials survey for radioactive ores supplemented by additional readings taken with prospecting types of instruments. The manuscript has been returned by Science with the recommendation that prior to publication Dr. Gentry document more fully the data with respect to the kinds of congenital malformations, frequencies in different areas and also the material he refers to about dosage readings. DR. GLASS expressed concern about the possibility of a sensational reaction if such a study were to be reported. This concern was shared by other members of the Committee. It was pointed out that the Radiation Branch of HASL has agreed to visit the areas of interest with Dr. Gentry and make measurements in true dosimetric units in the near future. (Since the meeting this survey has been made with little evidence of significant departures from a normal background of 10 microroentgens per hour.)

There was considerable discussion as to what should be done with the HASL data when they were taken. The general concensus of opinion of the Committee was that these data were to be made available to Dr. Gentry for his use and that possibly the AEC group should present its measurements independently but concurrently with Dr. Gentry's publication.

DR. GLASS pointed out that if the frequency of congenital malformations varied in direct proportion with the background radiation of 2 - 6 r per 30 years, then the residents of Travancore on the coast of India, where the background is so very much higher, would be expected to have about 30% to 40% of congenital defects. He also pointed out that the Rongelapese would be expected to show about 20 - 25% even in the first generation offspring.

1957 WEAPONS  
TESTS

MR. CORSBIE was next introduced to discuss the 1957 weapons tests and civil effects test participation. Much of Mr. Corsbie's discussion is classified and therefore omitted, but he discussed efforts to gather additional data about the effects on structures. West Germany and France and certain industries are preparing test structures.

A brief recess was held at 11:00 a.m..

OFFSITE  
CRITERIA

DR. DUNNING next presented the current status of the offsite radiation criteria. The staff paper proposing 10 r in 10 years was originally approved by the Commission but later approval was withdrawn at the request of Mr. Murray for further study. This means that the whole criterion of 3.9 r is now in effect for the entire test period. The principal consideration appears to be whether the 10 r expressed in the proposal is 10 r as measured or 10 r effective dose to individuals. There was some discussion as to whether the criterion should represent the higher dose to an individual or the mean dose to population but no conclusions were drawn.

A classified discussion followed on safety criteria for special weapons handling. Dr. Warren expressed concern for a considerable loss of time in defensive action because of fear of a hypothetical weapons accident.

SUNSHINE  
AND  
FALLOUT

The memorandum addressed to Commissioner Murray on the subject of the current status of Sunshine was discussed. DR. WARREN expressed the opinion that it would be very valuable for possible discussion at Geneva. MR. EISENBUD was then asked to discuss the up-dating of worldwide fallout data. He expressed less optimism about the ability to estimate total fallout because of recent data showing a greater disagreement between gummed film samples and pot samples. One of the fundamental problems is that it has not yet been possible to measure strontium-90 from gummed paper, which is the principal means of collecting worldwide fallout. Sr-90 measurements from pot samples account for only 10% of the strontium present. The ultimate estimates are based upon the age of debris, which is somewhat uncertain. A brief discussion of the status of bone measurements and milk measurements followed. MR. EISENBUD indicated that the content of milk was still rising and recently was up to 5.6 sunshine units.

DR. REITEMEIER next presented a discussion of the importance of soils in the radioactive contamination of food chains. This was an extensive discussion in which Dr. Reitemeier showed a number of slides of soils in various parts of the world to indicate the different manner in which radioactive fallout would be taken up by the plants. The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

NEUBERGER  
BILL

The meeting was re-convened at 1:55 p.m. with DR. DUNHAM submitting the Division's comments on the proposed Neuberger Bill. He indicated that the establishment of a new Institute as proposed, responsible for atomic health, research and training would be a complete duplication of certain AEC functions. Such a duplication would mean that either the AEC is not doing a competent job or that it is not appropriate to mix the production and testing of weapons and the public health protection aspects in the same agency. The establishment of such an institute would necessarily involve the transfer of much of the program and laboratory facilities. The question of a national radiation record program was not considered feasible. Further discussions with the NSF and the Department of HEW are planned. It was DR. WARREN'S opinion that the Joint Congressional Committee should present the Commission's interests in further discussion of the Bill. He also expressed regret to see another special health institute proposed. Dr. Dunham said that there was no new Act required for the Public Health Service to do all that is called for by the proposal. DR. CANTRIL and DR. BUGHER both endorsed the views of Dr. Warren and Dr. Dunham. Dr. Warren expressed the opinion that the radiation record aspects were premature in view of the other approaches now being studied. At this point Commissioner Libby was asked to comment on the Neuberger Bill. He expressed the opinion that if any of the AEC duties and functions were threatened it was the duty of those concerned to discuss the matter with the Joint Congressional Committee. DR. FAILLA and DR. DUNHAM at this point agreed that no Committee resolution was required because of the clear concurrence of opinion shown by the record.

COMMISSIONER LIBBY then asked a question, which he indicated was hypothetical, concerning the reaction if a 30% cut in appropriations were to be made. It was agreed that the whole program would require a very careful review and DR. WARREN expressed the opinion that many years' work would be lost through the termination of certain projects. He said that certain parts of the program were in the "must" category, such as air sampling and other international responsibilities to the general public. DR. GLASS stated that the NAS Committee stressed the point that research and physical aspects of atomic energy were far ahead of research in biology and medicine. The possibility of convincing Congress, and particularly the Appropriations Committee, as to the need for more extensive biological research was discussed, particularly in light of the recent sharp cuts in funds for the NIH. DR. FAILLA endorsed Dr. Glass' opinion and stated that many of the fundamental effects of radiation on human organisms were still not understood.

There was a general discussion on ways in which general education could be supported both at the high school level and at the college level. It was COMMISSIONER LIBBY'S opinion that the forthcoming fallout hearings would offer an opportunity to some of the Committee members of expressing their opinion on these matters. DR. LIBBY

NEUBERGER  
BILL  
(continued)

asked Dr. Glass what the geneticists believed was the percentage of spontaneous mutations due to radiation but Dr. Glass stated that this was yet unknown. Upon DR. FAILLA'S request to COMMISSIONER LIBBY for further questions, he enumerated several of the dozens which he could ask. There were as follows: (1) How was Dr. Hollaender's bone marrow study going? (2) Are the recent AEC regulations on radiation in any way foolish? (Robley Evans and L. S. Taylor had both written to Commissioner Libby regarding the AEC regulations.) (3) Do you know any good people who would want to work on the fallout problem? (4) What about the return of the native Rongelapese? (He suggested a six-month pooled urine sample study.)

None of these questions were discussed extensively but DR. FAILLA invited Commissioner Libby to forward questions to the Committee in the future in case they should arise. Commissioner Libby said that his general practice was to speak to Dr. Dunham and subject matters would be presented to the Committee. He in turn invited the Committee members to make any statements to him that they felt appropriate.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 3:05 p.m. the Committee held its Executive Session with only the Committee, Dr. Dunham, Dr. Shilling and the two secretaries present. It was reported that the final checks on candidates for the Committee vacancy had been satisfactory and the names had been forwarded to the General Manager. It was agreed to hold the next meeting at Rochester on Friday and Saturday, May 10 and 11, 1957.

DR. GLASS read the following statement regarding public utterances by Committee members.

"During the recent Presidential campaign questions of policy in matters relating to the release of radioactive materials from operations testing and waste products of the peaceful development of atomic energy were brought forcefully before the public. It is clear that on many questions of policy, necessarily involving value judgments and the estimation from uncertain assumptions of particular levels of danger to mankind from radiations, there is a divergence of views even among those best qualified to give an opinion. The immediate question which it appears important to discuss is whether members of official and quasi-official bodies (e.g., the NAS Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, the ACBM, etc.) can retain the right as citizens to express their views in public

without impairing their usefulness as members of such bodies in the event of public disagreements and disputes in the press. Is it possible for such persons to express controversial views without being, as it were, identified in their official connections and thus consequently either committing their colleagues to unwilling silence or else bringing about a public dispute? Is it advisable to keep silence on matters on which one has strong personal views because the public cannot be expected to distinguish between (a) the scientist's statement of accepted facts, (b) his statement of personal opinion within his own field of competence, and (c) his value judgments outside that area? Or is it better to voice only the concensus of the body on which one is serving and to repress one's own legitimate views as a citizen?"

The statement was discussed, although no decision was made regarding it.

DR. FAILLA offered to express his personal views on the subject. He said that being on a committee did not deprive him of the right to have and express his personal views. However, when a man accepts membership on a committee, he assumes certain responsibilities and obligations that he cannot disregard. Therefore, he should be extremely careful in any public statement he makes to point out what are his personal views, and what the consensus of the committee may be. To avoid any possible misunderstanding, in case of a sharp disagreement, he would resign from the committee before making a statement.

DR. WARREN expressed a somewhat related concept and felt that as an individual he could make personal statements; that many people were members of many committees and if they had to wait for formal agreement of those committees before expressing an opinion, this might prove an unfavorable relationship. As an example, he stated that he intended to express his personal opposition to the Neuberger Bill to his Congressmen. However, in case of a sharp disagreement with the consensus of a committee of which he was a member, he, like Dr. Failla, would resign from the committee before making a public statement other than a minority report in opposition to that consensus.

In this connection DR. BUGHER stated that he feels strongly about the bill but would not write about it because of working for a tax-free organization. Since an expression of opinion might injure, the organization, he would prefer to express it to the Commission. He stated that he believed such problems of obligation go beyond the rights of the individual.

DR. DUNHAM reported on his discussion with Mr. Strauss regarding the review of weapons tests plans by an Advisory Committee. There was reluctance expressed to have a presidentially-appointed committee for this purpose and besides, it was already too late to review Plumbob plans. DR. WARREN states that the foreign countries were very much interested in all tests made by the U.S., England and Russia.

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- 13 -

DOE ARCHIVES

1059979

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DR. WARREN expressed a somewhat different concept in that he felt quite free to make personal statements and as an example said that he intended to express his opinion to his Congressman on the Neuberger Bill. In this connection DR. BUGHER stated that he feels strongly about the bill but would not write about it because of working for a tax-free organization. Since an expression of opinion might injure the organization, he would prefer to express it to the Commission. He stated that he believed such problems of obligation go beyond the rights of the individual.

DR. DUNHAM reported on his discussion with Mr. Strauss regarding the review of weapons tests plans by an Advisory Committee. There was reluctance expressed to have a presidentially-appointed committee for this purpose and besides, it was already too late to review Plumbob plans. DR. WARREN states that the foreign countries were very much interested in all tests made by the U.S., England and Russia.

At this point the minutes of both the 59th and 60th meetings were approved. A general discussion was held on reporting of bone tumor and of leukemia on death certificates. DR. WARREN stated that the reporting was now believed to be quite accurate. DR. GLASS raised the question of unfinished business of the ABCC. DR. WARREN stated that he believed the matter should now be left to the Division of Biology and Medicine staff, to which DR. GLASS agreed.

DR. BUGHER discussed the proposed Rockefeller Foundation grant to NYU which is predicated upon the HASL move to that area.

DR. WARREN expressed considerable concern for the large number of tests in the U.S. series which are not understood by the foreigners. He believed that some way should be arranged to get word to the Commissioners that a blank check to the military is causing bad world opinion. DR. BUGHER also expressed concern about what appear to be repeated tests of the same type for the same purpose.

DR. FAILLA repeated his request of the last meeting for some sort of Committee which would rank higher than the AEC and the military in order to determine policy regarding weapons testing, but Dr. Warren pointed out that the Department of Defense and the AEC both report directly to the President and it did not appear to be feasible to have any agency between them and the President.

DR. DUNHAM reviewed briefly the status of the NYOO move and stated that every effort was being made to assist. He stated that the Rockefeller Foundation proposal was very good.

DR. FAILLA mentioned that greater thought should be given to the form of presentations at meetings since some at this one had probably been too extensive. The Executive Session was adjourned at about 4:30 p.m..

Meeting of ACBM, March 15-16, 1957

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- Dr. Glass: Seems unfortunate to the public the very divergent views by people on these bodies, such as the scientists not agreeing among themselves.
- Dr. Failla: I consider I have not given up the right to express my own ideas about anything by joining organization or committee. By joining, I assume certain responsibilities therefore have to use discretion about what I say and analyze. If it comes to a showdown would resign first and then make statements, if such statements would be detrimental to organization to which I belong.
- Dr. Warren: There is quite a difference between what one expresses as a member of a committee on the basis of the deliberations of that committee and what you say on the basis of your own work and your own judgment in the field, for example, I am proposing to write my senator about this Newburger Bill and express a strong opinion, which is apart from anything discussed here. If I were saying this as a member of ACBM I would not say it without formal vote from ACBM.
- Dr. Glass: It's not quite that--NAS Cte., for example, made certain statements for members of the press who questioned them.
- Dr. Bugher: I have some strong feeling about the Newburger Bill but I would not write about it, because working for a tax-free organization I would not do this. It might injure the organization for which I work. I would express my view to the Commission, not as a complaint to the public. There are some of the problems of obligation that go beyond the right of the individual.
- Failla (to Glass): Some time you can avoid ----- by stating in report that your opinion has nothing to do with the committee of which you are a member.
- Dr. Glass: I would agree with you but not as to the general success of the individual. The particular thing that rankles sorest in my mind is that after the AAAS symposium on Sr-90 Snyder gave his talk and gave exact opposite point of view. There were comments in the papers. Ordered me to explain the apparent contradiction. Campbell, of the Committee, had been asked to explain the contradiction and did something which made it sound like more than ever like a contradiction.
- Dr. Dunham: Dr. Failla asked that I explore with the Chairman the possibility of re-establishing somewhat on basis as always in the past a group of experts concerned with safety of the test operations. We discussed this rather fully. He is not adverse to this but would be willing to have some new group take a look at Plumbbob. What sort of body should this be? Was reluctant to have an executive committee take a look at it.

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DOE ARCHIVES

Dr. Bugher: Would it be an advisory committee such as in the last series?

Dr. Warren: This brings up a somewhat fundamental question to the tests. In almost every test series once a series has gotten under way there is something added to it that had not been adequately weighed in the nature of the work. When one has these things coming up hurriedly I doubt they get the degree of scrutiny they had earlier. I also wonder if as much ingenuity is put into trying to get all the answers from any one test as there is to getting various aspects of things from a series of tests. One of the things that makes us extremely vulnerable on world opinion is the large number of explosions in our series. Does not make sense to scientists in other nations that there really have to be as many as there are. It has repeatedly been pointed out to me by neutrals that the total aggregate of Russian tests is less than any one of our series and have made creditable progress in their program. Knowing the eagerness of the military to get everything done that can be, and knowing the considerable number of tests have been in the past-----not much in the training of a very small number of troops (?) ---I have wondered if there were some way that we would appropriately get word to the Commission that we are losing heavily in world opinion by giving a blank check to military requests.

Dunham: The military requirements are very moderate. Both AEC and military a year ago were willing to let it ride.

Dr. Failla: Would like to go back to suggestion I made last time. The public and foreign countries feel that military and AEC are running the show and does not consider the population of US or other countries by going ahead and exploding these bombs with the excuse that it is necessary.

Warren: Will have a problem in that the Secy. of Defense is directly responsible to the press, the AEC is directly responsible to the press, and can't get anybody any higher than that. Would have very rough time in evaluating the needs. Would have to know as much as the members of the AEC in order to do that and the AEC has grief enough ~~run-with~~ running to the JCAE without still another watchdog group.

Dr. Bugher: I would like to see a poll expressing public opinion as to how people regard AEC.

Dr. Cantril (to Sw): Do you find in the UN Cte that neutral countries tell you our shots are being advertised in their papers as we get notices that Russia has put off a blast?

Dr. Warren: All the shots--English, Russian, and our own are headline items. One of the very important things it is difficult for us to keep in mind is the very small area that England, France, Belgium and Norway have--they haven't any place to go.

Corrections in minutes of 60th Mtg (Berkeley)

subsidiary problems----"abbut" instead of "for" -- Page 5

re Cs 137--27 yrs. instead of 33

Dr. Warren: Move acceptance of minutes as amended--second Dr. Cantril

Mention was made that minutes of special meeting at AEC in Nov. 1956 had never been approved.

Dr. Warren moved that these minutes be approved--second Dr. Cantril.

Dr. Glass--A consideration of continuing the genetics program which the Japanese seem ready to pick up again (re ABCC)--(suggested Dr. Crow visiting ABCC at 60th Mtg)

Dr. Bugher: I am in favor of having another look at the ABCC program.

Dr. Warren: From perhaps a parliamentary standpoint I wonder if it is getting the ACEM in an operative position? It should be left to B&M staff to suggest sending someone to look over program.

Dr. Dunham: I suggest that Dr. Glass write Dr. Stern or Dr. Neal a note, since this is the group that should be thinking about this. For ACEM to make a formal proposal might upset the equilibrium of the re-constituted CAC.

Dr. Bugher: Mentioned talking with Dr. Dunham about Rockefeller Fndn. backing NYU in case Inst. of Industrial Medicine into a broad thing (????)--- School of Public Health to encourage broad problems. Will probably have to wait to see how negotiations come out.

Dr. Dunham: The NYOO is negotiating with the University. The operational cost will be several hundred thousand dollars. Going to get information as to how much to perate somewhere else. Will have to talk with C&S.

Dr. Failla: The Dental School wants to move into the same building.

Dr. Dunham: The thought of the Foundation (Rockefeller) strengthening is a fine idea.

Dr. Failla: Suggested working out some sort of outline for the presentations at these meetings (with a view to shortening the presentations) CLD agreed to do this.

Exec. Session adjourned--

UNITED STATES  
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
ON  
BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE

August 7, 1957

Honorable Lewis L. Strauss  
Chairman, U. S. Atomic Energy Commission  
1901 Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Strauss:

The sixty-second meeting of the Advisory Committee on Biology and Medicine was held in Rochester, New York on May 10 and 11, 1957 with the Atomic Energy Project of the University as host. We regret that this letter to you was delayed, but the meeting minutes were not available until recently because of the pressure of the recent Congressional hearings.

At the request of the Committee, Dr. Dunham and Dr. Dunning explained the present status of the offsite criteria for continental weapons testing. There appears to be some uncertainty as to what the actual criteria are, and it would be well to clarify the situation in the near future. It seems desirable that the assumptions made in arriving at these criteria be reviewed in the light of more recent information.

7 || There was a discussion of the one-point detonation hazard, and it was decided to take this up at the special June meeting to be held in Washington.

The Committee was briefed by Dr. Western on the status of the Sunshine project. Two special study groups had been designated to meet and discuss two important phases; one, the bio-medical behavior of strontium-90, and the other, soil chemistry. Another phase requiring further study is the distribution of strontium-90 in the skeleton with special reference to the possible presence of hot spots.

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Honorable Lewis L. Strauss

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August 7, 1957

The Committee wishes to express its great appreciation for your presence at the meeting and the information you presented.

Sincerely yours,



G. Failla  
Chairman, ACBM