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UNITED STATES  
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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May 12, 1958

Mr. L. L. Strauss, Chairman  
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Strauss:

The 68th Meeting of the Advisory Committee for  
Biology and Medicine held in Germantown May 8-10 was  
attended by all members.

It is gratifying to the Committee as I am sure it  
must be to the Division of Biology and Medicine to see  
the accomplishment of certain of the recommendations made  
at our March meeting. I refer to (1) our concern regarding  
public education and awareness of the hazards of weapons  
transportation. The front page of the New York Times  
for May 11 reported a lengthy account of the experimental  
program of the AEC beginning in 1955 and its continuing  
efforts to improve all phases of weapons handling as they  
pertain to public safety. I also noted a condensed but  
adequate account in the Seattle paper of the same date.  
This is the type of presentation which it is to be hoped  
will reach a large segment of the people.

(2) There is now established joint Department of  
Defense and AEC participation in any experience resulting  
from an accident in the transportation or handling of  
nuclear materials or weapons. (3) An ad hoc advisory  
committee has met and formulated the problems relating to  
the re-study of the weapons used in Japan as the firing of  
such a weapon may or may not be recommended as part of the  
proposed Biomedical Effects Test.

In addition, the Committee was pleased to learn that  
Dr. Joseph Ross, Associate Dean of the UCLA School of Medicine,  
has been appointed full-time Director of the UCLA-AEC Project.  
Dr. Ross is a thoroughly competent scientist and should

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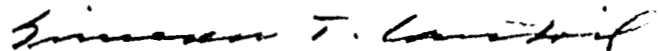
provide the leadership which would clearly warrant continued support of the project by AEC.

Our meeting reviewed the more recent data of Project Sunshine and we plan at our next meeting to again discuss the broad program of fall-out monitoring with respect to methods securing the most meaningful data. We also had an opportunity to learn from members of the Division the past and present estimations of relative hazards from Carbon 14 released to the atmosphere. This also will receive later consideration on our agendas.

The greater portion of our time was concerned with the present and future program of the DBM and the ways and means whereby evaluation of both on-site and off-site research may best be accomplished to meet the Commission's responsibilities. Recommendations by the Committee to aid in evaluation will appear in our Minutes and we shall continue to explore this important problem as a primary responsibility to the DBM and the Commission. We are of the opinion that the Director of the DBM and his staff are fully aware of the difficulties in obtaining the requisite scientific manpower for adequate research and have been mindful also of a number of other influences which bear upon the allocation of funds for research throughout the country.

We, as well as his many other colleagues in the Commission's activities, regret the coming expiration of the term of Dr. Shields Warren as a member of the Committee. Recommendations for his successor will reach you through Dr. Dunham.

Yours sincerely,



Simeon T. Cantril, Chairman  
Advisory Committee for  
Biology and Medicine

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