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March 14, 1968

Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg  
 Chairman  
 U. S. Atomic Energy Commission  
 Washington, D. C. 20545

Dear Dr. Seaborg:

The AEC Advisory Committee for Biology and Medicine held its 123rd meeting on March 8-9, 1968, at the MSU/AEC Plant Research Laboratory at Michigan State University. All members were present except Drs. Moseley and Wyngaarden.

The following matters were discussed:

MSU/AEC Plant Research Laboratory. The central theme of the research program of the Laboratory is the analysis of differentiation, development, and de-differentiation in plants. The ACBM heard reports by twelve staff members and especially noted the wide usage of radioactive isotopes in all the research projects. The ACBM was impressed by the evidence of competence, enthusiasm, and vigor of the staff and by the obvious success Dr. Anton Lang, the Director, has had in recruiting such a group.

There appeared to be no unsolvable problems of facilities, equipment, or personnel except the usual ones associated with budgetary limitations.

The ACBM inquired carefully into the functioning relationship between the Laboratory and the academic departments of Michigan State University, because it believes effective working cooperation between the Laboratory and various departments is essential to the long-range health of the program. The ACBM realizes that cooperation cannot be achieved by legislation or by administrative fiat, yet the governing heads can remove many obstacles and thus promote cooperation. We learned that Dr. Lang is very mindful of the objective, that he has taken many steps to promote cooperation, that other steps will be taken, but that nevertheless there will probably not be as full and complete integration of the MSU/AEC Plant Research Laboratory into the graduate training and research program nor into interdisciplinary research projects as initially hoped for. The difficulties lie with individual people, rather than with

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administrative obstacles. The ACBM believes that this aspect of the PRL should be observed very carefully in the next few years, especially to see if any novel approaches or solutions are found that may be useful elsewhere.

UCLA Report. The ACBM approved the report of its subcommittee on the problem of the contract renewal of the Laboratory of Nuclear Medicine and Radiation Biology, University of California, Los Angeles.

Radium Dial Workers. Another subcommittee of the ACBM has been appointed, along with five or six other scientists, to study Dr. Robley Evans' proposal for a National Center for Human Radiobiology. This subcommittee will probably meet in late March.

Lawrence Award. The ACBM noted with pleasure the announcement that Dr. John B. Storer was among those to be honored by receipt of the Ernest Orlando Lawrence Memorial Award for 1968.

Meeting of ACBM and General Advisory Committee. The ACBM responded to the invitation of the GAC to meet jointly at the Argonne National Laboratory by choosing the afternoon of Monday, July 8, 1968, for the date of the meeting, if that should prove satisfactory.

Next Meeting. The next meeting of the ACBM will be held May 10-11, 1968, in Washington, D. C.

Sincerely yours,

Earl L. Green  
Chairman, AEC Advisory Committee  
for Biology and Medicine

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