

US DOE ARCHIVES

326 US ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

RG _____

Collection: Biology of Medicine

Box 2

Folder 8

711341

June 3, 1970

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

Dear Dr. Seaborg:

The Advisory Committee for Biology and Medicine held its 134th meeting at the Battelle Northwest Laboratory, Richland, Washington, on Thursday and Friday, May 7-8, 1970. Present for the entire meeting were Drs. Robert D. Moseley, Jr. (Vice-Chairman), William F. Bale, Arie J. Haagen-Smit, and Perry R. Stout, members of the Advisory Committee. Dr. Philip P. Cohen, Chairman of the ACBM, was present for a portion of the first morning of the Committee's meeting with the Battelle Northwest Laboratory staff but was recalled to the University of Wisconsin by the Chancellor due to campus disturbances there. Dr. Clement A. Finch, Professor in the Department of Medicine, University of Washington, Seattle, who will become a member of the ACBM in July 1970, attended the meeting as a guest. Also in attendance were Dr. John R. Totter, Director of the Division of Biology and Medicine, and members of his staff.

The program, organized by Dr. Edward L. Alpen, Manager of the Environmental and Life Sciences Division of BNWL, involved reports on the programs of the Departments of Atmospheric Resources, Radiological Sciences, Ecosystems, and Biology carried out at BNWL under AEC sponsorship. These areas are, of course, of continuing and intense interest to the ACBM. In particular, the ACBM was pleased to hear of the progress made in new techniques and sensitive instrumentation for use in medical research and health physics, thermal stress problems, chronic Sr toxicity and inhaled plutonium toxicity, and studies concerning co-carcinogenicity of uranium mine air contaminants. In addition to the Laboratory personnel, the ACBM heard a presentation by Dr. Robert A. Conard, of the Brookhaven National Laboratory, on medical findings in the people of the Marshall Islands accidentally exposed to fallout.

At its executive session, the ACBM recommended that consideration be given to the development of some mechanism for payment to the Utirik population as research subjects in a way to assure their continued cooperation with

OFFICE ▶						
SURNAME ▶						
DATE ▶						

1071411

Dr. G. T. Seaborg

- 2 -

June 3, 1970

the investigation of the Marshallese people accidentally exposed to radioactive fallout in 1954. It is clear that the mechanism for payment would have to avoid the connotation that this was in compensation for radiation exposure, in view of the low dose of radiation received by the Utirik population. In addition, the ACBM recognizes the necessity for continued medical care of the Rongelap population, probably by the assignment of a paramedical person on a continuing basis, both to insure that the late effects of these accidental exposures are adequately detected and managed, as well as to insure the validity of the continuing investigation of the medical findings in this group.

The ACBM also recommends that the Commission investigate mechanisms of stimulating the creation of a monograph on natural radiation backgrounds, possibly under the aegis of the National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council and/or National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements. In view of the concern being expressed by members of the scientific community concerning the relevancy of present radiation protection standards, it is felt an in-depth investigation of the quantity and quality of unavoidable natural radiation would be of great assistance in putting these problems in proper perspective.

Sincerely yours,

Robert D. Moseley, Jr., M.D.
Vice-Chairman
Advisory Committee for Biology
and Medicine

OFFICE ▶	ACBM/MOSELEY; me					
SURNAME ▶	RDM / R					
DATE ▶	6/3/70					