

DRAFT LETTER REPORT, 134th ACBM MEETING

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 Dr. Robert D. Moseley, Jr., (~~Vice-Chairman~~) and ~~Doctors~~ William F. Bale, Aric J. Haagen-Smit, and Perry R. Stout, members of the Advisory Committee. Dr. Philip P. Cohen, ~~the~~ ^{Acton} Chairman of the ~~Advisory~~ ~~Committee~~, 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} ~~Hematology~~ at the University of Washington, Seattle, ~~Washington~~, who will become a member of the ^{Alpen} ~~Advisory Committee~~ in July

Also in attendance were
Dr. John R. Jetter, Director of the S-B-M - and members of his staff.
The program, organized by Dr. Edward L. Alpen, Manager of the

Environmental and Life Sciences Division of the Battelle-Northwest Laboratory, involved reports on ^{programs of the Departments of} ~~The Atmospheric Resources~~ Department ~~Programs~~, ~~The Radiological Sciences~~ Department ~~Programs~~, ~~The Ecosystems~~ Department ~~Programs~~, and ~~the~~ Biology Department Programs carried out

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^{BNW}
at the Battelle Northwest Laboratory under ^{AEC} ~~Atomic Energy Commission~~
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 ⁹⁰Sr 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 ~~agreed to recommend~~ ^{that} con-
sideration 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 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 ACEM 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.

Very truly yours, *rd*,

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