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INFO MEMO 48-75

June 9, 1948

COPY NO. 17

ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

Memorandum for Information

ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE -  
REPORT OF MEETING OF APRIL 23-24, 1948

Note by the Secretary

1. The attached report is circulated for Commission information.
2. The Director of Biology and Medicine has been asked to prepare and coordinate a reply.
3. In order to facilitate the reading of the attached paper, references to certain Commission documents are listed below:
  - a. The berylliosis problem (paragraph 3 of the attached) has been explained in Info Memo 48-73 entitled, "The Beryllium Problem";
  - b. AEC 28 and 28/1 concern the RW studies mentioned in paragraph 4;
  - c. The report of the January conference on psychological aspects of radiation hazards mentioned in paragraph 5, has been circulated as Info Memo 48-61.
  - d. Info Memo 48-57, "Medical and Biological Effects of Radiation - Contract with the National Academy of Sciences," includes references to Atomic Casualty Commission expenditures, mentioned in paragraph 11 of the attached.

ROY B. SNAPP

Secretary

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6. The program in biology and medicine both in Berkeley and San Francisco was extensively reviewed with the cooperation of Drs. John H. Lawrence, Joseph G. Hamilton and Robert S. Stone and their associates. It was the impression that a well-integrated program was being developed in a competent and aggressive fashion. In the study of Dr. Stone's program it was felt that since there was no Atomic Energy Commission National Laboratory on the West Coast, and since both University of California and the Medical School of Leland Stanford University have expressed a desire to cooperate in developing a research center for the study of the effects of high energy radiation under the guidance of Dr. Stone, it is recommended by the Committee that the Atomic Energy Commission provide Dr. Stone with a betatron and with suitable facilities for animal experimentation as well as for utilizing the betatron in the treatment of humans. It is understood that the Division of Biology and Medicine is implementing this program.

7. The program of research at the University of California (Los Angeles), under the guidance of Dr. Stafford Warren, was reviewed. The Committee concurred in the action of reducing the budget for this work to \$700,000 FY 1949 and also concurs in the belief that a long range program in biology and medicine may be profitably developed here, probably entailing a level of expenditure of \$1,125,000 annually. The resurvey of the Trinity Site proposed by Dr. Stafford Warren was felt desirable and it has been approved by the Division of Biology and Medicine.

8. The Committee feels that resurvey of the Bikini area and initial resurvey of Eniwetok is of great biological importance. It feels that Dr. L. R. Donaldson, of the University of Washington, who carried on the Bikini resurvey last year, is the proper person to head up this resurvey.

9. It was learned with much satisfaction that the Isotope Division has encountered no difficulty in implementing the first phase of the free distribution of isotopes for cancer initiated on April 1.

10. The Committee feels that the provision of scientific exhibits for the meeting of the American Medical Association and for the Centenary of the American Association for Advancement of Science have very real advantages in the way of acquainting scientists of the non-military aspects of the working commission and in reaching the group of teachers who may be highly effective in influencing students to enter the field of atomic energy as related to the various scientific disciplines.

11. The Committee was disturbed at the very material expenditures envisaged by the Atomic Casualty Commission of the National Research Council and also by the lack of cooperation evidenced by the Army and the Navy in this field, in view of the fact it was these services that initially asked the Commission to underwrite the investigation. It has requested representatives of the Atomic Casualty Commission to be present at our next meeting and justify the proposed expenditures.

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The document consists of 1 page  
No. 1-33-1-1, Series 1-1

May 10, 1948

MEMORANDUM TO: Carroll L. Wilson, General Manager  
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission

FROM: Alan Gregg, Chairman, Advisory Committee  
for Biology and Medicine

SUBJECT: REPORT OF MEETING OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR  
BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE, APRIL 23-24, 1948,  
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

1. A meeting of the Advisory Committee for Biology and Medicine was held on April 23 and 24, at Berkeley, California.
2. The Committee was pleased with the progress in developing the fellowship program under the National Research Council and with the progress made in establishing the four regional training centers.
3. The Committee considered the berylliosis problem at length and recommended that a research program on the chronic form of the disease be undertaken at Trudeau Foundation under the guidance of Dr. A. J. Vorwald. The Committee also discussed the broad aspects of the beryllium hazard in industry and feels that every effort should be made to disseminate accurate information with regard to the disease.
4. The Committee learned with interest of the progress in organizing studies for RW and stands ready to give such assistance as it can in the biological aspects of the problem. The Committee had the benefit of discussion with Dr. E. O. Lawrence regarding general aspects of the RW problem.
5. The Committee reaffirmed its interest in planning for the protection of populations in the event of atomic disaster or attack. In this connection they reviewed the report of the Committee on Psychological Aspects in Radiation Hazards resulting from the conference held last January. It becomes apparent at once that this Committee has not yet considered the psychological aspects of atomic hazards as such but rather has been considering the impact of any major catastrophe in large part. The recommendations of this Committee were reviewed. It concurred in several, which are as follows:
  - a. Preparation of a series of booklets or other suitable materials containing frank, factual information on the objectives and activities of the Atomic Energy Commission. This series should include a descriptive list of Atomic Energy Commission contractors and their problems.
  - b. Preparation of one or more basic primers on atomic energy for use by journalists, radio broadcasters, librarians, educators and literate adults generally.

The Committee was not in sympathy with the other recommendations as presented.

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12. The Committee was pleased to learn that the program in biology and medicine in Brookhaven seems to be progressing on a more realistic basis and note with satisfaction the interest of Dr. Donald Van Slyke in this phase of the Brookhaven activities.

/s/ Alan Gregg, Chairman  
Advisory Committee for  
Biology & Medicine

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