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23 FEB 1949

Dear Senator McMahon:

In a letter dated March 5, 1948, the Joint Committee was advised of the Atomic Energy Commission's approval of a fourfold cancer research program. One basic objective of this program is the development of the use of radioactive materials in studies of the nature of cancer, its diagnosis and treatment. The Commission has now approved an expansion of the size and scope of this phase of the cancer research program.

Distribution of radioisotopes without charge, except for handling and transportation, to qualified United States medical and research workers was initiated April 1, 1948, through the Isotopes Division, Oak Ridge. To date, radioactive iodine, sodium, and phosphorus have been provided.

Since the initiation of this program, there has been an enthusiastic response by researchers in the cancer field. The Commission has now approved an extension of the free distribution list to include other radioisotopes now listed for domestic distribution as they are available. In this category is Cobalt 60.

The program for free distribution of isotopes for cancer work, as thus expanded, is expected to be carried on at a level of about \$450,000 for the next year.

Public announcement of the expansion of the program will be made in the near future.

Sincerely yours,

UNITED STATES ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

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Lewis L. Strauss
Acting Chairman

Honorable Brien McMahon
Chairman, Joint Committee on Atomic Energy
Room 4-A, West Terrace
United States Capitol
Washington, D. C.

MEDICINE, HEALTH & SAFETY 14 (Cancer)
X ISOTOPES PROGRAM 3

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