

~~CONFIDENTIAL - SECURITY INFORMATION~~

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : John C. Bugher, M. D., Director
Division of Biology and Medicine

DATE: June 12, 1953

FROM : Gordon M. Dunning, Biophysics Branch
Division of Biology and Medicine

720110

SUBJECT: DISCUSSIONS ON ALLEGED RADIATION INJURY TO ANIMALS AND ON PUBLIC RELATIONS AT THE NEVADA PROVING GROUND

SYMBOL: BMBP:GMD

On June 9 General Fields asked me to confer with him, Colonel Huston and Captain Haight on the subject of sheep allegedly dead from radiation. Before the meeting ended the subject broadened into other incidents of alleged radiation injury and, finally, into the general subject of public relations in connection with the tests at NPG. The meeting was quite frank as to what I regard as the true situation of public relations and specific suggestions were made as to future action. Briefly and without going into justification at this time, I recommended the following:

1. That an investigation be made as to the cost of buying up the grazing rights for the NPG and the Air Force Gunnery Range and also the area to the northeast up to Nevada Highway No. 25,
2. That a similar investigation be made as to the cost for either buying outright the Groom Mine or at least the cost of removing personnel during the time of the tests, and
3. That a broad approach to a whole program of public information and education be made.

On June 10 the Commissioners were briefed on the whole situation and the above recommendations repeated. Their concern was obvious and after some discussion, Mr. Boyer appointed a committee to study further the problems and to make certain recommendations.

On June 11 General Fields, Colonel Huston and I again discussed the situation. General Fields thought it would be wise for him to send a representative to the Nevada area for a period of time to keep abreast of the situation and to keep him (General Fields) informed.

On June 12 I received a call from Mr. Hank Johnson who is in Mr. Carroll Tyler's office. Apparently the current thought is to follow through on the sheep and cattle problem until the story is completed and then, at a later date, initiate discussions on the larger problem of public information and education.

CONFIRMED TO BE UNCLASSIFIED
BY AUTHORITY OF DOE/OC

Reviewed by Jose Diaz 6/2/81
DATE
By: W. Trench 6/9/87

FEDERAL ARCHIVES 326 U.S. ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION	
RG _____	
Box _____	<i>DBM</i> <i>334</i>
Folder _____	<i>22</i>

1149342