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BIOMEDICAL PROGRAM IN CONJUNCTION WITH FUTURE NEVADA TESTS

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Operation Ranger was conceived and executed in such a short period of time that there was comparatively little opportunity for any outside organizations to come forth with requests for collateral experimental programs. There is no reason to feel that this will be the case in the future, and I anticipate numerous requests for participation in test operations from both military and civilian groups.

I do not see how the Laboratory can afford to refuse a proper and reasonable amount of biomedical experimentation in conjunction with future test operations. The emphasis of the Laboratory, quite understandably, has been on the offensive aspects of atomic weapons. In view of the fact that we may some day be on the receiving end, we cannot afford to overlook the defensive problems.

Tomman feels that B/M should have final authority

It is my feeling that the Laboratory should retain rigid control of the entire experimental program which might accompany weapons tests. I also feel that if we are not prepared to offer our own experimental facilities, we may find them crammed down our throats by pressures from Washington greater than we can withstand. If we do not propose our own general program, someone else may propose one for us which may be a very unpalatable dish. It has already been brought to my attention that General Vandenburg has expressed some displeasure that no program on the biological effects of blast was conducted at Operation Ranger. All branches of military establishment will in the future endeavor to jump aboard the bandwagon; the Civil Defense organization will undoubtedly desire to participate; and there will without question be numerous civilian agencies anxious to join in.

This is surely serious - considered

It is my opinion that we should endeavor to obtain from the Division of Biology and Medicine a blanket statement to the effect that the LASL will have complete responsibility for deciding what biomedical experiments may or may not be carried out at future test operations. I would, in addition, like to see funds provided by the Division of Biology and Medicine, via General McCormack, for the construction of reasonable facilities for such work. As a very rough estimate, I would feel that a total of approximately 5,000 square feet for animal houses, laboratory, etc., would be called for, requiring expenditure of perhaps as much as \$200,000.00. Such construction, of course, should not have any priority over the facilities already contemplated, and it seems hardly reasonable to expect that such a laboratory could be ready for occupancy in much less than a year. I do, however, feel

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cont. [unclear]

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very strongly that Los Alamos must take the initiative in this matter and obtain first of all certain definite statements from the Division of Biology and Medicine. I would hate to feel that any programs could be forced upon us without our own approval and control.

I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this matter with you further.

T. L. SHIPMAN, M. D.
Health Division Leader

TLS/es

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