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Subject: Letter from Dr. Chanutin, University of Virginia. 721351

EILMK 2nd Memo. Ind.

Research Division, Manhattan District, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, 10 September 1946. To: Colonel Wm. D. Fleming, Director, Medical Division.

This document inadvertently sent to this office is returned to you for appropriate action.

*A. V. Peterson*

A. V. PETERSON,  
Director, Research Division.

2 Incls.:  
n/c

*Mr. Welsh 57411*  
~~*secretly*~~

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1155695

Subject: Letter from Dr. Chanutin, University of Virginia.

EIDMK

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Research Division, Manhattan District, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, 10 September 1946. To: Colonel Wm. D. Fleming, Director, Medical Division.

This document inadvertently sent to this office is returned to you for appropriate action.

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n/c

A. V. PETERSON,  
Director, Research Division.

1155696



Subject: Letter from Dr. Chanutin, University of Virginia.

EIDMI

1st Memo Ind.

28

U. S. District Engineer Office, Manhattan District, Oak Ridge, Tennessee,  
30 August 1946. To: Director, Research Division, Executive, Manhattan  
District (in turn).

1. For your information and comment.
2. While there would appear to be no violation of security in fulfilling Dr. Chanutin's request, any results of experiments by Dr. Chanutin on the sera would necessarily be subject to scouting under declassification regulations prior to any dissemination.
3. Although it is not clear from Dr. Chanutin's letter whether he is still doing contract work for the Chemical Warfare Service, that fact can be inferred.
4. A further fact to consider is the advisability of placing the Manhattan District in the position of acting as a supply agency for outside interests, although the monetary factor in this case would undoubtedly be minor.
5. In view of the above, it is suggested that contractual arrangements be worked out with Dr. Chanutin, whereby he may be enabled to procure the sera desired and the District will receive desired data and retain control of the dissemination of resulting information.

For the District Engineer:

*S. L. Brown*  
S. L. BROWN,

Colonel, Corps of Engineers,  
Director, Security Division.

2 Incls.:

1. Basic Letter
2. Ltr fro Dr. Chanutin

1155697

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**Subject: Letter from Dr. Chanutin, University of Virginia.**

**EIDMI**

**1st Memo Ind.**

**28 August 1946.**

**W. S. District Engineer Office, Manhattan District, Oak Ridge, Tennessee,  
30 August 1946. To: Director, Research Division, Executive, Manhattan  
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**For the District Engineer:**

**S. L. BROWN,  
Colonel, Corps of Engineers,  
Director, Security Division**

**2 Incls.:**

- 1. Basic Letter**
- 2. Ltr fro Dr. Chanutin**

1904 1155078

ADDRESS REPLY TO:  
DISTRICT ENGINEER  
MANHATTAN DISTRICT  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P. O. BOX 24  
OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE

REFER TO FILE NO. EIDMT

WAR DEPARTMENT  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ENGINEER  
MANHATTAN DISTRICT  
OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE



Subject: Attached Letter from Dr. Chanutin, Univ. of Virginia.  
MEMORANDUM to Chief, Security Division, Manhattan Engineer District.

1. Reference to attached letter from Dr. Alfred Chanutin, Professor of Biochemistry, University of Virginia, which requests that the Manhattan Engineer District furnish him sera from animals which have been irradiated by neutrons and beta and gamma rays, clearance is requested for supplying him such sera from animals so irradiated in work done in various research contracts under Manhattan Engineer District, notably at the Universities of Rochester and Chicago.
2. That the work of the Manhattan Engineer District involves production of neutrons, beta and gamma rays has been a notorious fact since the publication of the Smythe Report. That such work involves animal exposure to such radiation is equally notorious. Even if Doctor Chanutin desires a statement of the exact dosage of radiation of the animals whose sera might be furnished, it is believed this would not divulge any information as to the exact experiments in which such animals were involved, either as to purpose, technic or results.
3. On the other hand, information will be very probably gained from Doctor Chanutin's proposed work on such serum which would be of direct value in the problems of this Division. It is proposed to secure an agreement from Doctor Chanutin to furnish such data to the Division as an essential condition to such supply of sera if the proposal is given clearance.
4. The work being done by Doctor Chanutin and his Department is known to me personally as being of the highest order of scientific merit. The work on electrophoresis in particular requires peculiar training and equipment which is available in very few institutions. Hence, Doctor Chanutin's proposal promises to afford this Division newer data, difficult to obtain in any other manner.

1 Incl.  
Letter to Dr. Chanutin

*W. D. Fleming*  
WM. D. FLEMING,  
Colonel, Medical Corps,  
Director, Medical Division

1155699

ADDRESS REPLY TO:  
DISTRICT ENGINEER  
MANHATTAN DISTRICT  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P. O. BOX 15  
OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE

WAR DEPARTMENT  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ENGINEER  
MANHATTAN DISTRICT  
OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE

REFER TO FILE NO. **EIDACT**

23 August 1946.

**Subject: Attached letter from Dr. Champlin, Univ. of Virginia.**

**MEMORANDUM to Chief, Security Division, Manhattan Engineer District.**

1. Reference to attached letter from Dr. Alfred Champlin, Professor of Biochemistry, University of Virginia, which requests that the Manhattan Engineer District furnish him sera from animals which have been irradiated by neutrons and beta and gamma rays, clearance is requested for supplying him such sera from animals so irradiated in work done in various research contracts under Manhattan Engineer District, notably at the Universities of Rochester and Chicago.

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3. On the other hand, information will be very probably gained from Doctor Champlin's proposed work on such sera which would be of direct value in the problems of this Division. It is proposed to secure an agreement from Doctor Champlin to furnish such data to the Division as an essential condition to such supply of sera if the proposal is given clearance.

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1 Incl.  
Letter to Dr. Champlin

WIL. B. FLEMING,  
Colonel, Medical Corps,  
Director, Medical Division

1155700

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA  
BIOCHEMICAL LABORATORY  
UNIVERSITY, VIRGINIA

August 26, 1946

Colonel William D. Fleming, M. C.  
Manhattan Project  
Oak Ridge, Tennessee

Dear Colonel Fleming:

I am writing to you at the suggestion of Col. John R. Wood, Chief of the Medical Division, Chemical Warfare Service, at Edgewood Arsenal.

For the last three years, I have served first as a consultant to the Medical Division, CWS, under Dr. C. P. Rhoads and Col. John R. Wood, and then as the responsible investigator for contracts for work being done in the Biochemical Laboratory at the University of Virginia. During this time, we have been studying certain aspects of the physiological mechanism of action of mustards. We have been particularly interested in the distribution of the plasma proteins as measured by the electrophoretic method. In addition we have been fractionating these proteins by the alcohol precipitation technique of the Harvard group and have determined the distribution of the lipids in these fractions. During the course of our work, we found that we were getting abnormal proteins appearing in the blood after treatment with the nitrogen and sulfur mustards and after a variety of injuries which included x-ray irradiation. We have some evidence which leads us to suspect that each type of injury produces a different type of new protein in the plasma. In addition, we have studied certain other changes in the plasma which appear to be characteristic for injured and intoxicated animals.

It has occurred to me that certain of the actions of the mustards, particularly the nitrogen mustards, might be similar to that which would be seen in animals exposed to intense bombardment by neutrons or beta and gamma rays. I wrote Col. Wood about this matter and asked if he could possibly obtain sera from animals treated by intense radiation.

Colonel William D. Fleming, M. C.  
Oak Ridge, Tennessee

August 26, 1946

Page 2

He wrote back and informed me that you were in charge of the biological and safety work of the Manhattan project at Oak Ridge, Tennessee. He stated, "I do not know whether they have placed contracts with universities for studies of this type, but I suggest that you might write directly to Col. Fleming and inquire. We have no direct connection with Manhattan District work, and so Col. Fleming could be approached as well by you as by us. He might possibly be interested in having you explore such a problem under contract for Manhattan District. I believe their classification on work of this character is being sharply reduced and may possibly have been made unclassified."

My original question to Col. Wood was one based on curiosity in view of our experience with injury of various types. I am writing to ask if it would be possible to obtain sera from animals exposed to radiation of various types. I would be glad to welcome you or any of your associates to this laboratory or visit you at Oak Ridge or discuss this problem with someone in Washington.

When I first went to Edgewood in November 1945, as consultant, I heard a great deal about you from some of your former associates. They all spoke very highly of you, and I was impressed with the great loyalty and admiration that these individuals had for you. Later I heard much about your work in England during the War.

I trust that I will hear something about the possibility of cooperating with you in the study of the physiological mechanism of the action of intense radiation.

Sincerely yours,

*Alfred Chantia*  
Alfred Chantia  
Professor of Biochemistry

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