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INVESTIGATION RE:
FOLDER Human Use Ethics

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VISIT WITH DR. JOE W. HOWLAND, CHAPEL HILL HOLIDAY INN, APRIL 24, 1974

The following is a summary of the conversation with Dr. Howland.

Dr. Howland was initially stationed with the Manhattan Engineering
District in New York and was responsible for occupational/medicine
aspects of
the various activity in mainly production plants. Subsequently, he was
transferred to Oak Ridge where he was involved in research until 1947
and subsequently was involved in the organization of the Division of
Biology and Medicine of the newly formed AEC.

While Dr. Howland was in Oak Ridge he was aware that the need
existed for information on the biological behavior of plutonium in
humans. It is possible that at this time the Oak Ridge group including
Howland had prepared the design of experiment which plutonium would be
injected in a patient. In April 1945, a patient) was
admitted to the Oak Ridge Hospital with multiple fractures resulting from
an automobile accident. Dr. Hymer Friedell informed Dr. Howland that
he considered the patient to be a suitable candidate for the human plutonium
experiment. Dr. Howland indicated that he did not agree with Dr. Friedell.
Subsequently, Friedell ordered Dr. Howland to inject the patient with plutonium,
stating
Howland complies after receiving a written military form/Friedell that he
(Friedell) ordered Howland to inject the patient. During the period that the
patient was hospitalized in Oak Ridge, Howland was actively involved in the
followup of the patient. The patient recovered, moved to Atlanta, and was
subsequently lost to followup.

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Dr. Howland emphatically stated that no consent was obtained from the patient at any time and that as far as he knew, the patient had no relatives in the Oak Ridge area. Dr. Howland was not involved in any of the other human plutonium studies.

Dr. Howland, on his return to Rochester, was put in charge of the metabolic ward. To his knowledge, the metabolic ward was not involved at any time in the followup of plutonium patients.

In discussing Dr. Bassett's early involvement in human plutonium studies, Dr. Howland stated that in his judgement it is entirely conceivable that Dr. Bassett would obtain consent from the patient. This statement is based on Howland's judgement of Dr. Bassett as a person, rather than direct knowledge of the circumstances of the experiments.