

FOLDER ACCIDENT FILE

SECTION THURSDAY FILES

BOX NO.

REPOSITORY DOE - FORRESTAL

3 OF 6

files
704448

UNCLASSIFIED

Myron E. Kratzer

- 3 -

January 17, 1966

The irradiated fuel, carried in 50 ton steel casks, is to be re-processed at the UZANA Windscale works and the resulting plutonium returned to ENEL for use in the Italian nuclear program.

Under a contract signed in November 1964, ENEL is responsible for transporting the fuel from Latina to the port of Anzio and for loading it aboard the Stream Fisher, which has been chartered and specially adapted by the USABA. The USABA is then responsible for the transport of the fuel from Anzio to the Windscale works.

IV. MOL RADIATION ACCIDENT

*Please do Not
Say any
Thing about
dose - request
Euratom,
keep it
probably was
unknown
whole body*

A criticality accident with the VVERB critical assembly located in the CERN Laboratory in Mol, Belgium occurred on Thursday, December 20, 1965. A Belgian technician, _____, received a high dose of radiation estimated to be greater than 650 rem. He was immediately flown to the Curie Foundation Hospital in Paris for medical treatment. Although the blood composition is still abnormal, there is hope for the technician's survival.

Unofficial information has been obtained from Euratom giving some preliminary details of the accident. The VVERB critical assembly contains one large central shut-down rod mechanically operated and peripheral shim rods hand operated. Procedures allow shim rods to be withdrawn if the shut-down rod is fully inserted. However, no interlocks are provided. The technician, violating written instructions and working alone, entered the reactor cubicle while the shut-down rod was still being inserted and started withdrawing a shim rod causing criticality. The flash of light from the excursion caused him to drop the shim rod, thereby stopping the excursion. The excursion was not sufficient to cause expulsion of the water.

Mol scientists have since performed an experiment to simulate the accident as closely as possible using a highly instrumented dummy to determine the exposure received by _____ Results correlated with measurements made on _____ body shortly after the accident have shown that his dose was not uniform over the whole body. For this reason doctors have been hesitant to use the marrow transplant technique which was used successfully on 4 Yugoslav scientists in 1958. They fear that existing normal marrow cells would discharge antibodies to counteract the transplanted cells and this defense reaction might cause fatal troubles. At the latest report, however, _____ is holding his own and there is hope for recovery without a transplant.

The Mission has been informed there will be a complete report on this accident.

*From Jammert via M Bales Paris: _____ in relatively good shape
34 days later. Is beginning to regenerate his own cells
Is over the critical phase. No marrow, he believes*

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