

October 28, 1987

William R. Albers, M.D.
 Medical Director
 Office of Deputy Asst. Secretary
 Safety, Health & Quality Assurance
 U. S. Department of Energy
 Washington, DC 20545

Dear Bill:

Just another short note to keep you up to date with the events in the Brazilian radiation accident. Our information which was about 1 hour old at 2:00 p.m., EST, is that a fourth death has occurred. This man who died with septicemia worked directly on the initial disruption of the cesium-137 source. Dr. Littlefield estimated his cytogenetic (minimum) dose to have been 246-266 rads. Apparently extraneous factors are having positive and negative effects so that the junk dealer for whom Bob Ricks and I predicted a fatal outcome (dose estimate 378 rads) seems to be recovering, and two persons we did not get to see because they were in Goiania have now been hospitalized in Rio where one of them has died with pneumonia. All of the dead have been autopsied (we strongly encouraged this). One autopsy which disclosed an active cirrhosis seems to explain the patient's anemia (hematocrit 26%) that we did not believe could be associated with her radiation exposure. One man (dose estimate 68 rads) has been discharged from the hospital and returned to his home.

We hear that Dr. Robert Gale is creating media and publicity "problems", which may emerge in the U.S. press since it is reported that he has recently returned. We are continuing to keep a close track of the clinical events and will make you a more complete report as soon as possible.

I enjoyed the opportunity to lecture in your A/I course this week and volunteer to repeat if and when I can help out again.

Sincerely yours,

C. C. Lushbaugh, M.D.

1005054

REPOSITORY DOE - FORRESTAL
 COLLECTION MARKEY FILES
 BOX No. 3 of 6
 FOLDER BRAZIL 87 GOIANIA
Cesium - 137