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To: J.ROBERTSON (DOE1217)
Cc: C.LUSHBAUGH (DOE1258)
Cc: J.THIESSEN (DOE670)
From: C.LUSHBAUGH (DOE1258) Posted: Thu 6-Dec-84 11:52 EST Sys 64 (30)
Subject: MEXICAN ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION

Dear Jim:

We have made some progress at last but not much in the Mexican accident investigation. Dr. Enrique Pina is now identified as the Mexican official in charge of it. He is assisted by Dr. Christina Denava, a U.S.trained genetic toxicologist. The Mexican cytogeneticists are no longer interested in it, leaving our group with the responsibility for the cytogenetic dosimetry. Dr. Pina (and Dr. Denava have now arranged with Dr. Peter Voytek (EPA reproductive toxicology programs) and me to have a meeting at the regional Pan American World Health Organization in El Paso on January 9, 1985. Dr. Voytek informed me yesterday that he has asked Dr. Sherry Sullivan (reproductive epidemiologist), Dr. Jack Shull (geneticist) and Dr. E. Albertini (molecular geneticist) to attend and has suggested that I include Dr. Russell DuFrain (ORAU Cytogeneticist), Dr. Steve Blum (ORAU epidemiologist) and Zolin Burson (EG&G-Las Vegas environmental radiation physicist). Since the purpose of the one-day meeting is to plan the long-term follow-up of the approximately 200 persons irradiated in the incident and to agree on what studies should (or can) be done, assign lead roles and define Mexican/American collaboration and guidelines, it is evident that we need to have someone from OHER there to speak for USDOE. Knowing Bob Goldsmith's interest in this problem, I would like to suggest that he be added to the U.S. contingent unless of course you might wish to personally attend as our program manager at the El Paso meeting. Incidentally, the El Paso site for the meeting was chosen so that the trip would not involve foreign travel. I'd also like to include someone from Dr. Ed Wrenn's lab (for thermoluminescent dosimetry) but don't know the status of his requested support from OHER.

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The sudden interest of Voytek means that "his" EPA program in reproductive toxicology has been identified by the Mexican genetic toxicologist, Dr. Christina Denava, as having the expertise needed by her to obtain information on radiation damage at the molecular genetic level in the Mexican accident victims. We are still in the saddle for cytogenetic damage evaluation, at the chromosome level, reconstruction of the actual radiation fields, and the individual dose estimates. My efforts to supply epidemiologic expertise may be making the Mexican authorities uneasy. My approach has been though

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that we have the expertise to support their follow-up studies should they need such help, but since two of the original Mexican investigators have been fired or moved upwards (or out) their replacements are insecure to say the least. The regional representative for PAHO in El Paso does recognize me (and REAC/TS staff) as the U.S. team leader and support group, so from my viewpoint all is going well now that a planning meeting is scheduled for January 9. I perceive that Dr. Voytek is viewed as a source of financial support from EPA and that this causes him some concern.

Comments from: J.THIESSEN (DOE670) Posted: Mon 10-Dec-84 9:30 EST Sys 64