

# HARWELL

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Date 2nd September, 1974

Dr. Norman Cohen,  
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550 First Avenue,  
New York,  
NY 10016,  
U.S.A.

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Dear Norman,

Your letter dated August 5 arrived more or less on time, despite your concern about possibly having got the address wrong. In point of fact you were quite correct; the changes are due on the one hand to a local reorganisation leading to an enlarged Division with a new title, and also to the redrawing of the county boundaries in this area.

I much appreciate your comments drawing attention to some of the omissions in my Table I with regard to the NYU data, and I have made a note of these. I should perhaps emphasise that my objective in circulating the tables was, apart from the obvious one of giving people a chance to correct errors and omissions on my part, the general enlightenment of participants. I was also keen to try to counter any impression that nothing was happening at this end! However from what you say it seems that I unwittingly managed to convey the impression that Tables I-III, more or less as they stand, are destined for early publication. I do propose to include something along these lines in the write-up which I am pledged to provide for the IAEA within the next few months, but this will be for the Agency's internal consumption only, with the aim of convincing them that their money was well spent. For the ultimate publication I am not sure that such detail would be warranted, but even if it were I can think of ways of re-arranging or otherwise modifying the presentation to diminish any "league table" flavour. One could in fact do this for Table I simply by deleting entries 2 and 5, provided the relatively poor performance of these two laboratories is shown to be due to defective or maladjusted electronics, as I anticipate. (The reader would presumably be interested only in systems in good working order!). It would then be very different to select from the remaining entries either a champion or a candidate for the booby prize.

The appearance of a draft publication is I am afraid still some way in the future; one of the factors impeding progress is the lack of any communication since the exercise (apart from a Christmas card!) from one of the participants.

I really must make an effort to write to you in detail during the next few weeks about the translation of data for  $^{103}\text{Pd}$  into  $^{239}\text{Pu}$  calibration factors. The method of calculation we have adopted attempts to take into account geometrical factors as well as attenuation. It gives similar results to yours for the ratio of the detected : emitted fractions for the two isotopes (provided we assume the same abundances and attenuation coefficients etc). Naturally I should be only too pleased to describe your methods in the ultimate write-up, provided this would

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not prejudice any publication by you in its own right.

On a different topic, I have seen an abstract of your paper on <sup>241</sup>Am (ANS Transactions, June 23-27, volume 18). As you know, we have several cases of <sup>241</sup>Am contamination on our books and if you have a write-up of your full presentation I should be most grateful to have a copy. I'm afraid we haven't yet got our own findings presentably documented, but I hope this will be rectified within the next few months.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

*Don*

D. Newton