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THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER
School of Medicine and Denistry
P. O. Box 287
Crittenden Station
ROCHESTER 7, N. Y.

727247

February 12, 1948

Mr. Brewer F. Boardman, Chief
Technical Information Division
Field Operations
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
Oak Ridge, Tennessee

Dear Mr. Boardman:

Thank you for your letter of February 4, on the subject of declassifying Chapter XVI.

I would like to advance the argument that Chapter XVI does not report experiments with humans, and should never have been classified on this basis in the first place.

Examining Chapter XVI shows that there are 5 major parts to the chater:

1) A review of the literature is presented in which the clinical use of uranium as a drug in the treatment of disease in the years 1874 to 1930 is described. All of these reports are in the medical literature and all antedate the Manhattan Project.

2) An historical description is included next of the selection of 150/u g U/m^3 as a temporary maximum allowable concentration.

3) Some of the factors known to be important in exposures to dusts are presented and their influence indicated.

4) Reports are made in considerable detail of two accidents in which workers were exposed to flood concentrations of uranium hexafluoride. Case reports are included, both of fatal and of non-fatal cases.

5) A careful outline is presented of the program of medical observations conducted by the medical branch on workers in laboratories and plants in which chronic exposures to uranium compounds were possible. The description included pre-employment examinations, periodic health check-ups with laboratory procedures. A special program of industrial hygiene was set up at 4 selected sites: a) a large laboratory, b) a s all uranium processing plant, c) a large ore and uranium processing plant, and d) a large uranium processing plant. In addition, 2 programs of special examinations were carried out; one on 10 men working in a UF_6 plant, and the other on 31 men with possible exposures to UO_3, UO_4, and UCl_4.

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I wish to submit the argument that none of this material is human experimentation unless you would class measuring a man's height or recording his weight as human experimentation. I recommend that Chapter XVI be declassified for inclusion in our first Pharmacology Volume, because it illustrates the care with which the medical supervisory programs were instituted and carried out. In this way, one of the uses is indicated of the data grained from animal experimentation

Yours truly,

/s/ Harold C. Hodge

Harold C. Hodge
Chief Pharmacologist

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