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March 4, 1960

Dr. S. Hajducovic
 Pathophysiological Department
 Biological Laboratories
 Institute of Nuclear Sciences
 "Boris Kidric"
 Vinca, Belgrade, Austria

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Dear Dr. Hajducovic:

We have recently completed a review of all available dosimetry and biomedical data concerning cases of radiation overexposure resulting from criticality accidents. A reprint of a paper based on that study is enclosed.

As you will note, the patients resulting from the unfortunate accident at your Institution provide a significant quantity of important information. Unfortunately, however, while we had access to reports of your Institute concerning the characteristics of the reactor and the physical data about the accident, we had to rely on the reports of the French physicians for all biomedical information. If any clinical reports concerning these cases have been published by your Institute, we have been unable to locate them.

There are one or two details of particular interest to us which you might be able to supply. We have developed a method, which is discussed in the enclosed reprint, whereby early hematological and clinical findings may provide some basis for prognostic judgements in the initial period after a radiation accident. To aid in validating the procedure, we are very anxious to obtain the results of any blood counts performed during the second 24-hour period following the accident. We have spoken about this to Dr. Georges Mathé and have been assured by him that his data collection began with the third 24-hour period and that he received only one set of blood counts which were taken within the first 24 hours after exposure. To facilitate comparison of your cases with the others that have been reported, the additional blood counts, if available, would be most useful.

The other information which would be of great interest to us pertains to clinical developments following the return of the surviving patients to Yugoslavia. We have heard rumors concerning the occurrence of severe mental

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depression and also of rather early signs of radiation cataract in members of the group. In determining the efficacy of our prognostic procedures, any follow-up information, both clinical and laboratory data, would be of extreme value. As a consultant to the Health Physics Division of Oak Ridge National Laboratory, I am looking forward to the results of the extended dosimetry studies which are soon to be undertaken. I am sure that these, too, will enhance the value of the biomedical data which has already been obtained from this unfortunate episode.

Please let me express in advance my appreciation for any help that you can give us in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Niel Wald, M. D.
Associate Research Professor
of Radiation Health

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Enclosure

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