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EID821-1

P. O. Box E

16 April 1945

JWH/mh

Subject: Shipping of Specimens

To: Commanding Officer, Santa Fe Area, Santa Fe, New Mexico
(Attention: Capt. James Nolan)

1. A box containing 21 urine and stool specimens, 2 bone specimens and one blood sample was shipped this date to your office for analysis by Dr. Wright Langham.

2. Samples include a 24 hour control period and a four day experimental period. Urine samples for the first day are divided as indicated by adhesive labels attached to the caps of the jar. The blood sample was taken 4 hours after ingestion of + or -5/gamma of material.

3. Two bone specimens are included. One is of patella following a traumatic fracture. A second was taken from normal femur immediately above the injured patella. Time of operation was at 8:00 A.M. on 14 April 1945.

4. It is requested that this office be advised as to the condition in which these samples are received as well as suggestions for future shipments which are now planned at weekly intervals. Further shipments will probably be made by truck service from here.

For the District Engineer:

HYMER L. FRIEDELL
Lt. Col., M.C.
Executive Officer, Medical Section

Distribution:
SO & cc#2 - Addressee
cc#3 & #4 - Classified Files
cc#5 - Medical Section W/D ✓

Declassified as part of /
CIC Document No. 719631
Declassification Authority D Mahony / HA/BN
Date 9/11/95

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Project

AT 45 (10)

Draft

EIDMM P. O. Box E

[redacted] 17 April 1945

Subject: Purpose and Limitations of the Biological and Health Physics Research Program.

MEMORANDUM to Colonel K. D. Nichols, District Engineer

1. The following general statement of the purpose and limitations of the biological and health physics research program conducted by or under the supervision of the Manhattan Engineer District, is submitted for review and comment.

2. At the inception of the Biological Health Physics Research Program under the direction of the Manhattan District, the immediate objectives were not clearly defined except for the fact that additional information regarding the effects of radiation, the effects of exposures to T metal, and necessary precautionary measures to safeguard health were obvious necessities. Before it was possible to clarify the situation and establish more clearly the direction of further work a large amount of research was initiated on all phases of the Project. In the past 2 1/2 years the nature of the hazards present in the Manhattan District operations,

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the type and unique results available from biological research and other pertinent data have become more fully recognized.

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3. Within the past six months it has become increasingly apparent that a careful review of the medical research program with a view to its realignment and reorientation would be advisable and profitable. In addition to this it also has been considered essential that the program be properly integrated with, and its limits dictated by, the demands of the Manhattan Engineer District in its direct relation to the present war effort.

4. Under these circumstances the basic purpose of the operations conducted by the Manhattan Engineer District should be carefully scrutinized and duly considered from the point of view of the over-all national effort. It would appear that the Manhattan Engineer District, as a unit of the United States Army, should conduct only those operations which will culminate in some objective likely to be useful in the present state of emergency. The energy devoted to the Manhattan Engineer District operations would be determined by the promise and possibilities of its application to this war. Any objectives which are further removed should be terminated or postponed

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so that excess manpower and materiel will be made available for other tasks which might contribute more directly to the war effort. This certainly seems to be born out in other operations of the Army and the Government of the United States, and it is extremely unlikely that the Government could endorse and allocate a considerable portion of its resources to any projects if they have as their purposes results other than those which might be useful in the present emergency. In fact, every appeal by the Manhattan Engineer District to its personnel for intensified effort has been on the basis that it will help win this war. A proper exception could be made in these instances where it might be established clearly that failure to initiate a program at this critical time would jeopardize its development at a later date or forfeit the opportunity to explore this situation in the future.

5. If these should prove to be acceptable tenets any program whether directly associated with the mainline effort or a necessary corollary to this effort should confine its activities to those which are likely to prove immediately applicable. The question as to what might prove immediately applicable is not easily answered and decisions in [redacted] regard will not

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always prove correct. Nevertheless, by these tokens, programs which cannot come to fruition for long periods of time should not be undertaken, and research, the results of which do not promise to be immediately applicable, should not be pursued. It has been indicated by properly qualified individuals that the operations of the Manhattan Engineer District should and will continue on for peacetime purposes. If such proves to be the case, those aspects which are useful for peacetime should be assumed by peacetime agencies at a less critical period. At the present time it is difficult to conceive of a wartime organization, especially the Army of the United States, being authorized to conduct specialized programs which will be used in peacetime or which will be available only for some future conflict. This is especially abhorent in view of the fact that many individuals have been denied continuation of well-established projects which are very promising for peacetime purposes. Many of these individuals have been required to assist in programs which are not of their choosing and for which they are not particularly adapted, but which have been determined by proper authority to be most useful in the present war effort. Many production facilities

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likewise have been pressed [redacted] only

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because of the possible usefulness in the present war effort.

6. In accordance with the above, the special biological research conducted by the Manhattan Engineer District through its contractors should be reviewed at regular intervals and supervised by those who are fully cognisant of the basic premises upon which the Manhattan Engineer District operates. In the development of such a program all available data previously collected with regard to radiation and T toxicity should be fully outlined and no duplication of previous work should be considered unless these points are considered critical.

7. Every effort should be made to avoid unnecessary hazards by introducing adequate precautions. This reduces unknown problems to a minimum and eliminates the necessity for investigations in many cases. The cost of necessary safeguards in equipment and in manpower will often be a good indicator as to whether any investigations should be conducted in order to effect revision of these precautionary measures. (Research will be justified, of course, in those instances where the adequacy of the safeguards has not been reasonably established.)

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8. From the general overall view of the medical program as related

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to the operations of the Manhattan Engineer District, emphasis on the various aspects should be arranged in the following order.

a. Establishment of tolerance levels which are known to be acceptable.

b. Protection of personnel with all necessary safeguards to maintain operating personnel at an optimum level of health.

(1) The criteria for testing the levels of health and well being should be those which are generally accepted and which have been established as important in evaluating the state of health of an individual. Special criteria should be introduced only after they have properly correlated with definite biological changes which are immediate or one of prognostic importance to health.

c. Careful monitoring of all the operating facilities including biological monitoring (examination of excreta, etc.) to establish instances in which the tolerance levels have been exceeded.

d. For consideration of the medical legal aspects, including necessary biological research, it should be pointed out, however, that investigations should be conducted only insofar as they will augment the data and information [redacted]ing personnel

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and from the operating facilities and should be limited to those features which are deemed most likely to embarrass the Government.

9. In recapitulation it may be stated the Manhattan District is charged with conducting operations which will be valuable in the present war effort; that all accessory and auxiliary functions should be directed and oriented so that they are in direct support of this premise.

STAFFORD L. WARREN
Colonel, Medical Corps
Chief, Medical Section

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