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Columbia University
in the City of New York
NEW YORK 32, N. Y.
DEPARTMENT OF RADIOLOGY
RADIOLOGICAL RESEARCH LABORATORY
630 WEST 168TH STREET

June 30, 1954

Dr. Lan-Chang Chiang
Department of Radiology
National Taiwan University Hospital
Taipei, Taiwan, China

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Dear Dr. Chiang:

I remember your being in my class in radiological physics; I did not know you had gone back to China.

Your letter of June 14 regarding fish which you believe to have been contaminated by radioactive isotopes does not contain adequate information from which to draw any definite conclusions.

Some of the products of an atomic explosion are isotopes with rather long half lives, so that there might still be detectable amounts after three months, although by far the greater part of the activity will disappear much more rapidly.

Your reported counting rates are very low. Their exact significance could not be evaluated without exact knowledge of the type of Geiger counter, the natural background, and the method of counting samples. It was probable that the activity was not sufficient to harm anyone handling the fish, or even eating it.

However, the United States Atomic Energy Commission is much better able to give you information and advice on this subject than I am. They have made extensive surveys out there, and would have a better idea of what your data mean. Also they could advise you about instruments.

I am not sure who the best person would be for you to get in touch with. However, I am sending your letter on to my friend Dr. Charles Dunham, of the Division of Biology and Medicine of the Atomic Energy Commission. He will know how to put you in touch with the proper authorities.

With kindest personal regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

Edith H. Quimby
Professor of Radiology (Physics)

EHQ:bb

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