



ATOMIC ENERGY

ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
3050 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3050

14 JUN 1994



ACH1.000004.012

Mr. Dan Guttman  
Executive Director  
White House Advisory Committee  
on Human Radiation Experiments  
1726 M Street, N.W.  
Suite 600  
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Mr. Guttman:

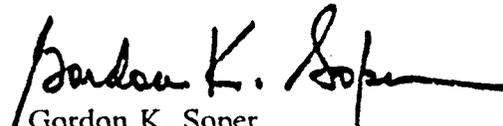
On behalf of the Honorable John Deutch, this is in response to Dr. Faden's letter of 3 June, concerning our collaborative effort to tell the story of the government's role in human radiation experimentation. As a part of this process, we are committed to ensuring that, as soon as possible, relevant classified documents are identified, declassified and made available to your committee and the public.

We share your concern about the timeliness of the document declassification process, and we will continue to work with your committee to expeditiously declassify appropriate documents. In this regard, your request for a three week response period, for declassifying and releasing the material or determining that certain portions remain classified, has merit. However, given the involvement of multiple agencies in the declassification process, a three week response will not be possible in all cases. Nevertheless -- in spite of processing impediments, e.g., multiple agency involvement, time/distance constraints, etc. -- within reason, we will work closely with your staff on a case-by-case basis to meet your three week timetable.

Alternatively, to ensure that the committee has timely access to relevant documents during the declassification process, it would be prudent to have some members of the committee authorized to review classified materials as an interim measure.

Rest assured we remain committed to the expeditious declassification of relative documents and a full accounting to the American people.

Sincerely,

  
Gordon K. Soper  
Principal



The Secretary of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

June 10, 1994

Ruth R. Faden, Ph.D., MPH  
Chair, Advisory Committee on  
Human Radiation Experiments  
1726 M Street, N.W., Suite 600  
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Dr. Faden:

Thank you for your letter of June 3, 1994, asking that the Department of Energy expedite the declassification of records concerning the Government's role in human radiation experiments. The Department of Energy fully supports the activities of the Committee and will ensure that there is timely document declassification.

I would like to provide you with information regarding the procedures we are using for the review and declassification of these records. Upon receipt of the documents, the Office of Declassification will survey them to determine optimum review requirements. The documents will be reviewed and declassified or classified information will be marked for deletion. The documents will then be returned to the appropriate Department of Energy program office for preparation and shipment to you.

Please be advised that some portions of the document may contain information from other agencies or may have originated entirely from other agencies. These documents will be separated from the remainder of the collections and sent to the respective agencies for review, and thus not impede your receipt of the remainder of the documents. We will urge the other agencies to promptly review the requested documents so we can provide them to you as quickly as possible.

I have instructed the Office of Declassification to assign the highest priority to the review of the documents of interest to your committee. They have assured me that, except in unusual circumstances, they will meet your request for completion of reviews within three weeks. This assurance is based on the volume of documents requiring review not exceeding three linear feet per week.

Please let me know if the Advisory Committee requires any additional assurances.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hazel R. O'Leary".

Hazel R. O'Leary

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

9 June 1994

Dr. Ruth R. Faden, Chair  
Advisory Committee on Human  
Radiation Experiments  
Suite 600  
1726 M Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Dr. Faden:

Please be assured that the Central Intelligence Agency will spare no effort to respond in a timely fashion to Advisory Committee requests for documents relevant to its work. We understand the importance and the urgency of your task and will do all we can to assist your panel.

After an extensive search of CIA records--a search that has required thousands of man-hours to screen millions of documents--we have found nothing to indicate that this Agency ever deliberately exposed anyone to ionizing radiation for experimental or operational purposes. Our search continues, however, and we will immediately apprise the Advisory Committee of any findings that indicate the CIA played a role in human radiation testing.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Studeman".

William O. Studeman  
Admiral, U.S. Navy  
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Office of the Assistant Secretary  
for Health  
Washington DC 20201

June 15, 1994

Ruth R. Faden, Ph.D., M.P.H.  
Chair  
Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments  
1726 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Ruth:

I am writing in response to your June 3, 1994 letter to Secretary Shalala in which you ask that Committee requests for declassification be addressed within a three week time period. I wish to assure you that DHHS security officers will give these requests the highest priority and will either declassify and release documents or determine that portions must remain classified within this three week time frame.

I also wish to let you know that so far, NIH, CDC, FDA, and the Office of the Secretary have informed me that they have no classified documents relating to human radiation experimentation.

Sincerely,

D.A. Henderson, M.D., M.P.H.  
Senior Science Advisor



THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON

JUN 14 1994

Ruth R. Faden, Ph.D., MPH  
Chair  
Advisory Committee on Human  
Radiation Experiments  
1726 M Street, N.W., Suite 600  
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Dr. Faden:

We are pleased to respond to your letter of June 3, 1994, requesting our support in your efforts to smooth the flow of information from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to your staff, particularly in the area of declassification of records.

Let me assure you at the outset that this Department intends to cooperate to the fullest extent possible in your endeavor to carry out your responsibilities under Executive Order No. 12891.

With respect to classified records under Executive Order No. 12356 (and its predecessors) regarding national security information, we note that to our present knowledge VA maintains little, if any, such records. It is my understanding that VA has no authority to create classified records but that VA does, on occasion, receive classified records from other Federal agencies in the areas of emergency medical preparedness, telecommunication security and law enforcement.

Nevertheless, to the extent that we do find classified radiation records under Executive Order No. 12356 or its predecessors that relate back to the periods your staff is interested in, we will contact the appropriate Federal agency for declassification of those records. We will work with them to achieve the time frame mentioned in your letter.

We note that Dr. Neil Otchin recently presented Ms. Denise Holmes of your staff with a copy of VA policy on the handling of security of classified records. This policy is being updated to conform to Executive Order No. 12356 regarding national security information.

To the extent that the VA may have "classified" any of its records as "confidential" for VA's own internal purposes and not pursuant to national security procedures, we do not believe that such characterizations will be an impediment to making available such records.

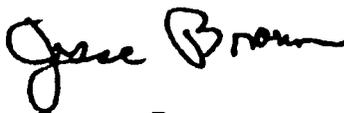
2.

Ruth R. Faden, Ph.D., MPH

We might take this opportunity to point out a records disclosure matter relating to individual privacy. Personal privacy laws governing individual patients and beneficiaries could raise some difficulties if records on specific patients or beneficiaries were to be sought in an individually identifiable form. In the past we have been able to work out an anonymous disclosure arrangement enabling recipients of such records to be confident in the content of the records while complying with the Department's statutory constraints in favor of personal privacy. If we encounter this situation, we will certainly process the records in an expedited manner to get all possible information to you.

Thank you for this opportunity to assist you in carrying out your timely and important responsibilities.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jesse Brown". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Jesse Brown

JB/rwh

National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration

**Headquarters**

Washington, DC 20546-0001



JUN 9 1991

Reply to Attn of:

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Ruth R. Faden, Ph.D., M.P.H.  
Chair  
Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments  
1726 M Street, NW  
Suite 600  
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Dr. Faden:

We have reviewed our classified data bases and, to date, have found no classified material related to human radiation experimentation performed by NASA or for NASA through contracts with other government agencies or private institutions. We will continue our review of NASA documentation, and will provide any relevant materials to you and your Committee in a timely way.

You have asked that requests for declassification of relevant material be addressed in the time period required by the Committee to do its work. We will make every effort to respond to any Committee requests within three weeks of the request by declassification and release of the material and/or determination that certain portions will remain classified. We see no potential problems with "NASA originated classification." However, with "derivative classification" in which it is necessary to coordinate the declassification with another agency, we would require the agreement of the involved agency to comply with the time priority. If there are materials that present difficulties with declassification that could delay the process, we will advise the Committee of progress and accomplish the action in as timely a way as possible.

I am very aware that the Committee has a significant challenge to review a preponderance of radiation materials and provide a report within severe time constraints. I want to assure you that NASA will provide every effort to enable you to accomplish your task within the constraints imposed.

Sincerely,

Harry C. Holloway, M.D.  
Associate Administrator for  
Life and Microgravity Sciences and Applications