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MDDH

Recent Breakthrough in Radiation Sickness
Pre-Protection

C/R&D

TSG

12 Jan 1959

ATTN: Asst. Executive

Col Hullinghorst/65976

1. Reference is made to the proposed presentation for the Army Policy Council "Medical Treatment and Pre-Protection of Radiation Sickness" by Major General James P. Cooney, The Deputy Surgeon General.
2. This paper has been presented to General Trudeau. At the time of this presentation, it was suggested that current research at Walter Reed Army Institute of Research showed promise of success. Since then the research has exceeded early expectations.
3. There has now been obtained complete protection at the 700r level in dogs, a dose that is inevitably lethal without pre-protection. General Cooney's presentation has been modified to reflect this research. A three-minute color movie dramatically demonstrates the beneficial effect of the procedure.
4. The significance of this research is that this represents a major breakthrough in a field which has defied success since 1942. Exploitation of this breakthrough may well result in our goal of an "umbrella protection" against radiation effect or, possibly, a method of treating radiation sickness in humans.
5. This research becomes increasingly important with the strong emphasis placed upon the Davy Crockett Weapons System and the expected radiation effects on humans. If one can "pre-protect" against radiation by a factor of two, the tactical benefit is apparent.
6. This data should be presented to the Army Policy Council at the earliest available time.

FOR THE SURGEON GENERAL:

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18-22 July 1994
 Washington Federal Record Center
 RG 112, Office of the Surgeon General
 Department of the Army
 Accession #: 62A 1582
 Box #: 55
 File: 700 2 (Walter Reed Army Medical Center) 65976