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COMMITTEE ON MEDICAL SCIENCES
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

BAW 3/10

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JOINT PANEL ON THE MEDICAL ASPECTS OF ATOMIC WARFARE

MINUTES

9, 10, 11 and 12 September 1952
Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory
Los Alamos, California

MEMBERS AND DEPUTIES PRESENT:

Civilians

Dr. Joseph C. Aub, Chairman
Dr. Robley D. Evans
Dr. Louis H. Hemplemann
Dr. Robert R. Newell

U. S. Army

Brig. Gen. E. DeCoursey, MC
Col. John R. Wood, MC

U. S. Navy

CDR Harry S. Etter, MC
Dr. Maurice C. Fishler

U. S. Air Force

Col. John M. Talbot, (MC)
Lt. Col. John E. Pickering, (MSC)
Maj. Gerrit L. Hekhuis, (MC)

Associate Members

Mr. James G. Terrill, USPHS
Lt. Col. Sven A. Bach, MC, USA
Lt. Col. Ernest A. Pinson, USAF (MSC)
CDR Eugene P. Cronkite, MC, USN

Declassified by DNA, Chief, ISTS
and DFOISR 94-MDR-0334 dtd 9 Dec 94.

Date: 12/17/94

T[redacted]NT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING T[redacted]NAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF T[redacted] LAWS, TITLE 18, U.S.C., SECTIONS 793 AND 794. THE T[redacted] OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUT[redacted] PERSON IS PROH[redacted] BY LAW.

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COMMITTEE STAFF

Dr. F. Lloyd Mussells
CDR Joseph P. Pollard, MC, USN
Col. Charles E. Melcher, USAF, MC
1st Lt. John D. Stoeckle, MC, USAR

OTHERS

Dr. Thomas L. Shipman - Health Division, Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory
Dr. George V. LeRoy - Panel Consultant
Dr. Austin Brues - Argonne National Laboratory
Col. Roy Maxwell, MSC - Army Medical Center
CAPT Herman F. Burkwell, MC, USN - Naval Radiological Defense Laboratory
Lt. Col. Jay P. Dawley, USA - Committee on Atomic Energy, RDB

ITEM 1 - Approval of the Minutes

The Panel:

Approved the minutes of the 9th meeting.

ITEM 2 - Introduction of Visitors

The Chairman:

Welcomed the visitors to the panel meeting.

ITEM 3 - Facility and Program Review

The Panel:

Noted with appreciation the presentation of the program of the Health Division of the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory and the assistance of the secretarial staff of the laboratory in the preparation of the Program Guidance Report.

ITEM 4 - Program Guidance 1952

The Panel:

Prepared Program Guidance Report 1952, dated 12 September 1952.

ITEM 5 - Report of Plans for Conference on Hazards of Radioactive Particulates

The Panel:

Noted the tentative plans to hold such a conference under the auspices of the AEC sometime later this year.

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ITEM 6 - Report of the Argonne Incident

The Panel:

Noted with appreciation the presentation of Dr. Austin Brues of the data concerning this incident.

ITEM 7 - Report of Biomedical Program of the Next Atom Bomb Test

The Panel:

Noted the proposed projects of the biomedical program.

ITEM 8 - Report on Plans for Manual for Therapy of Nuclear Radiation Injury

The Panel:

Noted the preparation by the NRC and FCDA of the manual, Emergency Treatment in Major Disasters; and suggested that the staff discuss the radiation section with interested parties.

ITEM 9 - Digest of Projects Dealing with Radiation Detection Instruments

The Panel:

Noted the above digest.

ITEM 10 - Other Business

The Panel:

A. Agreed that the section of the panel report entitled, "Psychological Studies," be deleted, and that instead a resolution directed through the Committee on Medical Sciences to the Committee on Human Resources, pointing the psychological problems of AW which the panel believes to be important, with the request that the Committee on Human Resources consider including them in its program guidance report; further, that the portion of the program guidance report dealing with psycho-physiological effects of radiation on mammals (and when possible on man) be transferred to that section of the panel report entitled, "Biological Effects of Radiation."

B. Passed the following motion for transmission to the Committee on Human Resources:

It is possible that inclination to panic in the

face of AW and RW may prove high. It seems advisable, therefore, to increase research efforts in the scientific study of panic and its genesis, and to seek means for its prophylaxis. The panel is enthusiastic for the Disaster Studies project already initiated. In addition to observations on spontaneous panic in man it would seem promising to seek out techniques for experimental production of panic in animals.

The panel agrees that the emotional stress of a radioactive hazard is likely to be abnormal because troops have no way to measure the hazard. This can complicate the problems of command.

The panel supports the point of view that the troop participation in tests of atomic weapons is valuable. As many men as possible ought to be exposed to this experience under safe conditions. Psychological evaluation is difficult and results can be expected to appear superficially trivial, but the matter is of such extreme importance that the researches should be persisted in, utilizing every opportunity.

C. Passed the following resolution:

Whereas the Joint Panel on the Medical Aspects of Atomic Warfare, concerned with the hazards of flying through an atomic cloud, feels that deficiencies of knowledge exist in cloud rise, dispersion with yield, at latitudes of low and double tropopause, and at extreme meterological conditions of 10/10's cloud cover of one or more cloud decks, since this relates to operational procedures for evasive action, etc., definitive theoretical and field evaluation should be accomplished with emphasis on arctic operations where these weather conditions are encountered, therefore, be it resolved that the subject motion be considered by the Research and Development Board for implementation.

D. Passed the following motion:

It is recommended that the approved Program Guidance Report of the Panel should be made immediately available through appropriate channels to the commanding officers of service research laboratories. This is

only for the purpose of dissemination of information to working groups and is not to be considered a research directive to such groups.

E. The Panel:

Noted the appointment of Dr. George V. LeRoy as panel consultant.

F. The Panel:

Noted the minutes of the Dosimetry Conference, University of Chicago, 10 June 1952.

ITEM 11 - Date and Place of Next Meeting

The Panel:

Agreed to hold its next meeting on 7, 8, and 9 January 1953, the place of the meeting to be decided by the staff.

F. Lloyd Mussells

F. LLOYD MUSSELLS, M.D.
Executive Director
Committee on Medical Sciences