



INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON RADIATION PRESERVATION OF FOOD

U. S. Department of Commerce Washington 25, D. C.

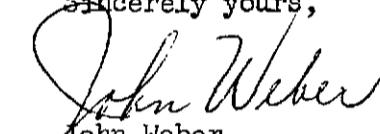
March 28, 1960

Colonel Laurence M. Hursh, M.C.
Chief, Medical Research Branch
Research and Development Command
U. S. Department of the Army
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Colonel Hursh:

The Secretariat of the Interdepartmental Committee on
Radiation Preservation of Food takes pleasure in sending you
the attached material.

Sincerely yours,


John Weber
Executive Secretary
per M.C.

P. S. Thank you for your continued cooperation.

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Committee on Radiation (1959-1960)

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON
RADIATION PRESERVATION OF FOOD

John Weber: ST 3-5200
Ext. 328

FOR RELEASE MONDAY,
MARCH 28, 1960

GOVERNMENT INCREASES RESEARCH
ON RADIATION PROCESSING OF FOODS

Through the stimulus of the Interdepartmental Committee on Radiation Preservation of Foods, definite steps are now being taken to carry forward a national program of research and development on radiation processing of food. This important phase of the President's Atoms for Peace Program was announced today by H. Herbert Hughes, Deputy Administrator of the Business and Defense Services Administration, U. S. Department of Commerce, who is Chairman of the nine-agency Committee, following a meeting of the Committee held on March 21, 1960.

These steps include the following:

The Atomic Energy Commission has established a program of research and development on low dose radiation processing of perishable foods to extend shelf life. During the next five years the Atomic Energy Commission expects to spend approximately \$5,000,000 on this project. During fiscal years 1960 and 1961, \$115,000 and \$500,000, respectively, are being devoted to the program. Under the Atomic Energy Commission program emphasis will be placed on basic studies in food chemistry, microbiology, wholesomeness testing, preservation factors of shelf life extension and radiation processing technology.

The Department of the Army has approved a revised Army food irradiation program. Over a six-year period, the Army Research program will cost an estimated

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\$5,000,000. It also proposes to construct a radiation food research facility to cost about \$1,800,000. This facility will consist of a megacurie cobalt 60 gamma irradiator, variable voltage linear electron accelerator, and associated facilities with emphasis on high dose treatment of foods.

The Departments of Agriculture, Interior and Commerce have conducted research and development in their respective areas and indicate they plan to continue their individual programs in cooperation with the Army and the Atomic Energy Commission.

To avoid duplication of effort, close and direct cooperation and interchange of information among all the member agencies are in effect.

Research on the use of radiation for processing food must take into account the provisions of the several food regulatory acts, such as those administered by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and the Department of Agriculture. The wholesomeness and safety of radiation-processed food must therefore be established to the satisfaction of these agencies.

Agencies represented on the Committee are: Departments of State, Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, Health, Education and Welfare, Army, Atomic Energy Commission, Small Business Administration, and International Cooperation Administration.

Mr. Hughes indicates that, as the national research and development program on radiation processing of food progresses, the Interdepartmental Committee through its member agencies will encourage commercial adoption of this technology.

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