

MEMO ROUTING SLIP		NEVER USE FOR APPROVALS, DISAPPROVALS, CONCURRENCES, OR SIMILAR ACTIONS.	
1	NAME OR TITLE General McNinch	INITIALS <i>J</i>	CIRCULATE
	ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION	DATE	COORDINATION
2	Dr. Youmans	<i>J</i>	FILE
			INFORMATION
3	Col. Vonder Brugga	<i>J</i>	NECESSARY ACTION
			NOTE AND RETURN
4	Col. Taylor	<i>L</i>	SEE ME
			SIGNATURE
REMARKS <i>L</i>			
FROM NAME OR TITLE L. M. HURSH		DATE 21 March 60	
ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION Colonel, MC Chief, Medical Research Br.		TELEPHONE 65472	

DD FORM 94 1 FEB 50 REPLACES NME FORM 94, 1 FEB 49, WHICH MAY BE USED. 16-56268-2 ☆ GPO

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File:

Rad. Pres. of Food Program - Interdepartmental
Committee on Radiation (1959-1960)

21 March 1960

INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE
ON RADIATION PRESERVATION OF FOOD

March 21, 1960

Mr. Hughes distributed an Agenda and read the notes attached.

Mr. Powe of FDD reemphasized their interest in the problem of induced radioactivity. Not interested in developmental aspects but are in the regulatory aspects.

Dr. Aebersold advised sending copy of report with agency replies to the JAEC. Also suggested direct agency coordination between working groups rather than through some subcommittee.

Mr. Hughes will make this report available to JAEC.

Mr. Hughes next indicated that if the JAEC asked him to appear on 31 March 1960, he would like to request several people to accompany him to provide technical backup.

Press release will be cleared with all agencies and also with JAEC prior to release.

Dr. Schwab asked how the Joint Atomic Energy Commission received a copy of the Ad Hoc report without prior approval of the ICRPF and also how come the AEC made a press release (Chem. & Eng. News) of their program without coordinating with other agencies.

Dr. Aebersold says no press release was made but they did report to the authorization committee in Congress.

It was decided that the full text of the report would not be released. The JAEC would release what they desired.

Dr. Schwab stated that DOD was going to approve the revised Army Program.



L. M. HURSH
Colonel MC

Chief, Medical Research Branch

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A G E N D A

INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE
ON RADIATION PRESERVATION OF FOOD

MARCH 21, 1960

10:00 A. M.

ROOM 4817, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

- (1) DISPOSITION OF AD HOC PANEL REPORT
"A NATIONAL CIVILIAN RADIATION PROCESSED FOODS PROGRAM"
- (2) JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE HEARINGS ON
RADIATION PRESERVATION OF FOOD
- (3) PRESS RELEASE

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INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE
ON RADIATION PRESERVATION OF FOOD

NOTES ON AGENDA

MARCH 21, 1960

- (1) Following the last meeting of the Interdepartmental Committee, the report of the Ad Hoc Panel on "A National Civilian Radiation Processed Foods Program," as amended at the meeting, was referred to member agencies for comment. Response has been received from all member agencies.
- (2) The Atomic Energy Commission has advised that it has established a program of research and development on low dose radiation processing of foods to extend shelf life. During the next five years the Atomic Energy Commission anticipates devoting approximately \$5,000,000 to this project. During fiscal year 1960 and 1961, funds in the amount of \$115,000 and \$500,000, respectively, are being made available for the program. Emphasis under the Atomic Energy Commission program will be placed on basic studies in food chemistry, microbiology, wholesomeness testing, preservation factors of shelf life extension and radiation processed technology. The Atomic Energy Commission believes its program is consistent with the technical objectives set forth in the Ad Hoc Panel report.
- (3) The Department of the Army advises it has approved a revised Army food irradiation program. Over a six year period, the Army Research program will incur an estimated cost of \$5,000,000. It also proposes to construct a radiation food facility to cost an estimated 1.8 million dollars. This facility will consist of a megacurie cobalt 60 gamma irradiator, variable voltage linear electron accelerator and associated facilities.

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- (4) The other agencies having representation on this Committee and who have conducted research and development in their respective areas have indicated they too will continue their individual programs.
- (5) In view of the positive steps having been taken, through the stimulus of the Interdepartmental Committee to carry forward research and development on both high and low dose radiation processing of food, it is timely to review the present and future role of the Committee.
- (6) Not all may be familiar with the history of this Committee. Several years ago when the Department of the Army was supporting the major Government activities in radiation processing of foods the Committee was established at the request of the Secretary of Defense. The Director of Research and Development for the Department of the Army was designated as its first chairman. In August 1958, the Chairmanship was transferred from the Department of the Army to the Department of Commerce. The purpose of the Committee is to promote early commercial realization of radiation processed foods and thus maintain world leadership in this important segment of the Nation's Atoms for Peace effort. The functions of the Committee are:
- (a) To provide motivation and broad guidance for the program.
 - (b) To achieve a high level of participation by Government agencies and industry.
 - (c) To effect a transition of program responsibility from the military to other Government agencies and to industry as rapidly as possible.
- (7) It is apparent that the Interdepartmental Committee has been successful in providing broad guidance in this program; achieving active participation by all interested Government agencies and in stimulating increased efforts toward a civilian program.

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- (8) The Ad Hoc Panel Report recommends that the Interdepartmental Committee make recommendations concerning policies and budgets for the national civilian program. This is not within the scope and purpose of the Interdepartmental Committee.
- (9) It appears the next major phase in this program will be the need to attract private industry to assume greater responsibilities in this area in light of research and development advances resulting from the Government program. As the program progresses the Interdepartmental Committee, through its member agencies, should bring to bear their full resources to commercialize radiation processing of foods.

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COPY

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
BUREAU OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
Washington 25, D. C.

ICBPF
COPY
Snad road
ICIF

March 18, 1960

Mr. H. Herbert Hughes
Interdepartmental Committee on
Radiation Preservation of Food
U. S. Department of Commerce
Washington 25. D. C.

Dear Mr. Hughes:

Inasmuch as the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries is directly concerned with preservation and processing of fishery products, Secretary Seaton has requested that I reply to your letter of February 17, 1960, concerning the ad hoc working group's report. The Bureau's comments on the report are listed below. We wish to assure the Committee of the complete support of the Bureau in the proposed investigation, entitled, "A National Civilian Radiation Processed Foods Program."

Our experienced fishery researchers feel that successful development of low-level radiation processing of fish and shellfish may lead to the rebirth of the fresh (chilled) fish industry. The extension of the shelf-life of fresh fish by from five to eight days would permit marketing of unfrozen fish all over the country. At present, fresh fish and shellfish are commonly enjoyed only by consumers living in areas immediately adjacent to our fishing ports. We are especially pleased since rebirth of this phase of the fishing industry will benefit directly our domestic fishermen and processors. As you know, they are suffering exceedingly from the inroads made by imports on their frozen fish markets. It is our considered opinion that a potentially large market for fresh fish awaits successful development of techniques for low-level radiation preservation of foods.

In general, we are in full agreement with the recommendations embodied in the report. Owing to this Department's Congress-assigned responsibilities to protect and foster the growth of the

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fishing industry, we have listed below certain basic operational policy requirements which must govern our agreement to and participation in the proposed new program. We are certain that such requirements will be endorsed by other cooperating agencies and request that the Committee consider them for adoption as general operating guidelines.

1. No news-releases or reports on the fishing industry aspects of the proposed program may be made without prior clearance by the Director of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries.

2. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service will require that all proposals for radiation processed foods research on fishery products must be approved by its staff representatives in the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries in order that such research may be integrated into its own program to avoid duplication of effort.

In addition to the basic policy requirements listed above, we have several general recommendations which we feel will materially hasten progress on the proposed program. We request that the Committee consider these recommendations also for inclusion in the report.

1. It is proposed that all budgeting for the program in fiscal years 1962, 1963, 1964 and 1965 be centralized in and handled by a single operating agency to be designated by the Interdepartmental Committee for Radiation Preservation of Food. Otherwise the failure of a single agency to obtain approval for its program might well cripple the entire program and render ineffective efforts by other cooperating agencies. Participating agencies will develop and submit their programs to the operating agency for budget processing.

2. The marine products irradiator should be budgeted for construction in fiscal year 1962. It would appear undesirable to delay the proposed civilian program pending decision by the Army to construct the National Center. This is particularly true when the selected site may be such as to preclude its effective use in the civilian low-level radiation processing program.

3. Costs of replenishing or replacing radiation sources should be assumed by the Atomic Energy Commission as a normal adjunct to its rightful function of planning and constructing the irradiators.

4. The following species of fish and shellfish should be included in the study: tuna, shrimp, crab, haddock and flounder. These represent (1) all geographical areas of fishing, (2) the species

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which can most easily adjust in price to meet any possible added costs for preservation, (3) the most popular and accepted fishes and shellfish, (4) high-fat and low-fat fishes, (5) surface and ground fish species and (6) both round and flat fish species. Army wholesomeness studies are nearly complete for tuna and shrimp. Cod, a species very closely related to haddock, are also being studied in the Army wholesomeness tests. We are optimistic that clearances for shrimp and cod will be extended by the Food and Drug Administration to cover crabmeat and haddock.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ D. L. McKERNAN

Donald L. McKernan
Director

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