

30785

SWPCS 460

29 April 1953

Miss Helen M. Dodds  
 "Hopemont"  
 201 North Mill Street  
 Lexington, Kentucky

Dear Miss Dodds,

Your recent letter, addressed to the President, has been referred to this project for reply, since this headquarters is responsible for the military portions of the atomic weapons tests in Nevada.

Please let me reassure you in regard to the safety of the troops taking part in the maneuvers in connection with the tests. These maneuvers are carried out under conditions of maximum safety, and all troops are amply protected at all times. In none of the many military maneuvers has there been any instance of injury to personnel as a result of exposure to the atomic weapon, and you may rest assured that under present policies the chances of any such injury in the future are so extremely remote that they are negligible. The major purpose of carrying out troop maneuvers in connection with atomic tests is to train the men to know the capabilities and effects of the weapon, for future protection of themselves and others in case atomic weapons should be used by an enemy.

The injuries to which you refer, as having been under treatment in a hospital in St. Louis, must be, I believe, those which were experienced by four civilian scientists engaged in an experiment at Eniwetok, in the Pacific, in the year 1948. The accident from which these injuries resulted, was caused, I understand, by inadvertent violation of standard safety practices, has been thoroughly documented in the Journal of the American Medical Association. In a recent article in Time magazine, the number of patients involved in these cases was erroneously described as

OFFICE SYMBOL	1.	2.	3.	4.	5. C
GRADE AND SURNAME OF COORDINATING OFFICERS					

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forty; but this figure was subsequently revised to the proper number, four, by an entry in the "Letters to the Editor" column, authorized by Dr. J. Barrett Brown, the surgeon who was responsible for their medical care. The recovery of the patients has, I understand, been satisfactory.

I appreciate your concern and hope that this letter will reassure you.

Sincerely yours,

H. C. DONNELLY  
Colonel, USAF  
Chief of Staff

Memo for Record: Self-explanatory.

No pink reading file cy prepared. Complete file in central files.

OFFICE SYMBOL	1.	2.	3. <i>NO</i>	4.	5. <i>CS</i>
GRADE AND SURNAME OF COORDINATING OFFICERS			<i>Rankin</i>		<i>Donnelly</i>

AFSWP ROUTING AND CONTROL SHEET

NOTE: This Routing and Control Sheet will remain attached to this communication until all action required is completed. After action has been completed it will be filed in the Adjutant General's Office.

TO:	INITIALS	DATE	FOR	DATE RECEIVED	CONTROL NUMBER
CHIEF, AFSWP			APPROVAL	23 Apr 53	30741
DEPUTY CHIEF, USAF			COMMENT		
DEPUTY CHIEF, USN			CONCURRENCE	960	7 May 53
CHIEF STAFF			1 INFORMATION		
DCS/OPERATIONS			2 NECESSARY ACTION	TYPE OF COMMUNICATION; NUMBER OF COPIES, INDORSEMENTS AND INCLOSURES DF-so 3 cc - 1 Incl <i>W</i>	
CHIEF, PLANS AND RQMTS			NOTE AND FORWARD		
CHIEF, OPNS AND TNG			NOTE AND RETURN		
DCS/ADMINISTRATION			COORDINATION		
CHIEF, SECURITY			FILE IN AGO		
CHIEF, PERSONNEL			SIGNATURE		
CHIEF, LOGISTICS					
1 DCS/TECHNICAL SERVICES	<i>[Signature]</i>	4/24	FROM:		
CHIEF, WPNS DEV			SGO, DA	20 April 53	
CHIEF, WPNS EFFECTS			SUBJECT OR SUMMARY OF THE COMMUNICATION Complaint on Atomic Experiments		
CHIEF, WPNS DEFENSE					
CHIEF, WPNS TEST					
ADJUTANT GENERAL					
INSPECTOR GENERAL		1 MAY 1953			
SPECIAL ASST TO CHIEF, AFSWP					
HISTORIAN					
2 SURGEON	<i>[Signature]</i>	4/27			

REMARKS

*ed*

# DISPOSITION FORM

FILE NO. AGAO-CC 000.91 (15 Mar 53)      SUBJECT Complaint on Atomic Experiments

TO G4      FROM TAG      DATE 7 Apr 53      COMMENT NO. 1  
ATTN: Col Huneycutt      Miss McGuire/52267/er  
3B 466, Pentagon

Forwarded for appropriate action pursuant to conversation between Col. Huneycutt G4 and Miss McGuire, this office.

FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL:

*Wm O'Brien*  
Adjutant General

1 Incl  
Ltr 15 Mar 53

G4/F2-21953

TO: The Surgeon General      FROM: G4      DATE: APR 15 1953      COMMENT NO. 2  
Col Huneycutt/76881/mf

For necessary action and direct reply.

BY DIRECTION OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF, G4:

*Henry H. Rogers*  
HENRY H. ROGERS, Colonel, GS  
Chief, Research Branch, R&D Division

1 Incl  
n/c

471.6

TO: Chief, AFSWP      FROM Med Res & Dev Bd      DATE 20 Apr 53      COMMENT NO. 3  
The Pentagon      SGO      LtCol Dauer/61566/agw  
Attn: Medical Officer

In view of the combined service type of operation conducted at the Nevada Test Site, it is considered appropriate that your office reply to the subject letter.

FOR THE SURGEON GENERAL:

*Maxwell Dauer*  
MAXWELL DAUER  
Lt. Col., MSC  
Medical Research & Development Board

1 Incl  
n/c

Gh/F2-21953

TO: The Surgeon General FROM: Gh

DATE: COMMENT NO. 2  
Col Huneycutt/76881/mf

For necessary action and direct reply.

BY DIRECTION OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF, Gh:

1 Incl  
n/e

HENRY H. ROGERS, Colonel, GS  
Chief, Research Branch, R&D Division

471.6

TO:  
Chief, AFSWP  
The Pentagon  
Attn: Medical Officer

FROM  
Med Res & Dev Bd  
SGO

DATE  
20 Apr 53

COMMENT NO. 3  
LtCol Dauer/61566/agw

In view of the combined service type of operation conducted at the Nevada Test Site, it is considered appropriate that your office reply to the subject letter.

FOR THE SURGEON GENERAL:

1 Incl  
n/e

MAXWELL DAUER  
Lt. Col., -MSC  
Medical Research & Development Board

AND ASSOCIATION

Department

201 North Mill Street,  
Lexington, Kentucky,  
March 15<sup>th</sup> 1953

The Assistant to the President

*Particular  
our business hours*

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*16  
1000.91*

Dear President Eisenhower,

When you became President,  
I thought that the shenanigans about  
the Atomic experiments would be made  
to conform to the best interests of the  
country.

As a Presbyterian, I know it is  
downright wicked to experiment with  
the lives of human beings drafted in  
peacetime. If the men running this  
experiment say there is no danger, why  
do they build such elaborate shelter  
for themselves farther away from the  
explosion area than the troops which  
have no protection? The hospital at  
St. Louis is one which can give you  
details about the treatment of large

*(15  
news)*

