

28 December 1973

PERSONAL FOR

Dear Myron,

Thank you for the copy of the NY Times article. Though we should not need someone looking over our shoulder to assure we do our job correctly, it is sometimes healthy to have a columnist breathing down our neck. It would be more pleasant if they were always objective and honest, but the fact they are not makes it even more imperative that we even more conscientiously examine our compliance with directives.

I do not mean to imply we should "run scared." To the contrary, we must not apologize for doing our job. It is an essential job and AFRRI can be proud of its accomplishments under your able direction. It is necessary, however, that we protect ourselves and our bosses from possible embarrassment. In this respect we must be honest and forthright (though I am not anxious to invite publicity). Moreover, we should periodically review all our activities as we believe others might view them and determine if they can bear close scrutiny.

It is especially important that we know about and affirmatively decide whether or not we should continue any practices which might be controversial. If we decide to do so, we should document our deliberate decision with facts which clearly justify that decision and if sufficiently important tell our bosses so they cannot be surprised. We also should provide such information to the office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs).

I am not sure that such a review will reveal any need for specific action, but I would like your assurance the review has been made. If you believe any action is appropriate, I would appreciate your recommendations. For example, it might be well to invite a representative from Mr. Friedheim's office to AFRRI for briefings and a tour.

HRE-0496

28 December 1973

I have attached some specific questions which arise from our discussions of whole body radiation. Would you please provide answers along with your overall review?

Sincerely,

I Incl
as

WARREN D. JOHNSON
Lieutenant General, USAF
Director

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1. When patients are exposed to whole body radiation:
 - a. Who makes the decision that it should be done? Who reviews this decision?
 - b. What data or information do we (DNA/AFRRI) obtain? Is the patient aware that such data will be provided to an agency of the DOD?
2. How many patients have been exposed in our facility? What was the result in each case?
3. Is there any other such facility available? (Is our's unique?)
4. Are we fully in compliance with all federal regulations/directives pertaining to experimentation on human beings? (Both with the spirit and the letter of the law?) If there is any chance we could be accused of circumventing or evading, I want to know. In case this could happen I need to know whether there is any "illegality" on our part. Please do not quibble; it is essential I know the facts.
5. Are there any other AFRRI activities which could be the subject of unfavorable or potentially embarrassing publicity? If so, again it is imperative that I know.
6. This is not an inquisition and indeed I assume we (AFRRI) conscientiously attempt to comply with all laws and directives. It may be, however, that you have received conflicting instructions from my predecessor or that "because we've always done it that way" we assume it is ok. In this respect, this type of a soul searching is healthy, because that "we've always done it that way" syndrome can lead to real trouble. (I presume you have heard the story of Bismarck's visit to Russia. If not, I'll relate it to you.)

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