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File Code No.	D-B-623
Carton No.	29
Folchr No.	TRACERLAB (MR. ZENTNER)
Notes	STUDY OF RADIATION - JAPAN
Found D:	KAREN HOLMES
Date:	

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ARMY MEDICAL RESEARCH LABORATORY
Fort Knox, Kentucky

MEDEA-51-23

7 August 1951

Mr. Ronc D. Zentner
Western Division
Tracerlab, Inc.
130 High Street
Boston 10, Massachusetts

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Dear Mr. Zentner:

Your letter of 2 August covers a matter which is of considerable interest to me, although I have relinquished any official connection with the Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission from my date of departure, February 1951. I am uncertain as to your knowledge of the circumstances surrounding the study of residual radiation and radiation effects in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, particularly regarding the part played by several members of your organization, therefore, I will attempt to outline the entire situation. My acquaintance with the material is in some instances fragmentary, but it may serve to suggest several sources of information.

The basic findings of the first Japanese studies are incorporated in what is known as the report of the Joint Commission. This includes both physical and biologic data. A copy has been prepared which is unclassified and should be available at several places, the nearest being Doctor Stafford Warren's library. Portions of this also have been published in the medical literature, the most significant of which is the article by A. A. Liebow, M. D., Shields Warren, M. D. and Elbert DeCoursey, Col., M. C., "Pathology of Atomic Bomb Casualties." Another which may be of interest to you is the general report of the Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission, January 1947, by Doctors A. M. Brues and Paul S. Henshaw, published by the National Research Council. This I believe is available at the National Research Council and undoubtedly from Doctor Stafford Warren. The other best source of information I am sure is from the Committee on Atomic Casualties, NRC. Inquiries should be addressed to Doctor Carl A. Harris, Executive Secretary, Committee on Atomic Casualties, 2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington, D. C. I might say in this regard that several reports for publication are in preparation at the present time. Several publications in the field of hematology are probably available. Other definitive findings of the group in Japan have been incorporated in periodic reports to the

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Committee on Atomic Casualties and might well be available from the Council. Additional information also might be obtained from a recent consultant to the Commission, Doctor John S. Lawrence, Department of Medicine, UCLA School of Medicine. You might also be aware of the ophthalmic findings which have been published recently by Doctor David Cogan and also by Doctor Sam Kimura. The latter I believe is on the west coast.

The aspect of residual radiation in the Hiroshima and Nagasaki areas concerns to a considerable extent two members of your organization, Mr. Menker and Mr. Leventhal, both of the Western Division. It occurred to me that one of them might have supplied my name to you in your search for material, in which case you are well acquainted with the part they played in a rough survey of the residual radioactivity. In the event this is not the case I am sure you will gain some pertinent data from them on the basis of their observations in Japan and subsequent analysis of their material brought by them to the States. A certain amount of this material, essentially soil samples, was also sent to Doctor Stafford Warren. Further crude surveys of soil and vegetable material have been made by the group in Japan, which I believe are as yet incomplete.

Another report which may be of interest, and perhaps declassified by this time, is a Naval Technical Report by Smith (R. E.) and Pace, relating to measurements of residual activity in 1946.

It has been my impression that a member of the Committee on Atomic Casualties, Doctor Wilson of the Department of Physics, Cornell University, has concerned himself with gathering data on the residual radioactivity in Japan, both from the theoretical and practical aspects, and may have progressed in his compilation to the point where such data would be available.

I feel that it is unfortunate that I am unable to give you more definite references in some of the above information. All such records were retained at the Commission in Japan, whose present director incidentally is Doctor Grant Taylor, address Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission, APO 182, c/o Postmaster, San Francisco, California.

In answer to your query as to whether such information might be available through the Army Medical Research Laboratory, this organization has not been involved in any projects related to this field.

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I trust this information will be of some assistance in gathering data on the existence and effects of radiation in areas exposed to atomic bombing. I believe it is unnecessary to refer to the standard governmental publications which are already well known to you. Please feel free to call upon me in the event some specific matter turns up in which you think I may be able to assist.

Sincerely yours,

CARL F. TESSMER
Lt. Col., MC
Commanding

CFT:lr

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