

Statement of Dr. Sterling, Chairman of the Visiting Committee, Regarding
the Need for Continuation of the Hospital of the Medical Research Center
of Brookhaven National Laboratory

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To retain the present medical staff of Brookhaven National Laboratory with its top capability in the area, it is indispensable to have assured continued support for the unique hospital facility which has attracted to Brookhaven leading investigators in the field of Bio-Medical Research over the years. The recent difficulties in recruitment of an outstanding scientist in pulmonary physiology for the program concerned with atmospheric pollutants have been due primarily to negative effects of the uncertainty of funding of this famous hospital which has now been reduced in size by three-quarters--from its original 44 beds to the present 11 bed pavilion. The possibility of replacement of the hospital by an out-patient clinic has been perceived as ominous by the present staff, and will deter any effective recruitment of medically qualified personnel in the future.

The Medical Department has (or has immediate access to) a number of highly specialized facilities, such as a whole body counter, a whole (and partial) body neutron activator, computer and instrumentation facilities, a unique inhalation toxicology facility, extensive specialized nuclear medicine instrumentation, and scientific talent in disciplines allied to medicine. The proximity of the hospital to sources of extremely short-lived radioactive isotopes, as well as the proton beam suitable for therapy, are examples of how this hospital is unique in the country, indeed in the world, as an investigative resource for specialized bio-physical techniques.

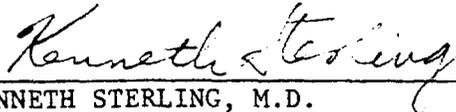
Without guaranteed continuation of the hospital, the attractiveness of Brookhaven to medical scientists will vanish in the competition with outstanding institutions offering stable positions, such as Rockefeller University with its

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excellent hospital, the National Institutes of Health, Walter Reed Army Medical Center (which has the Armed Forces School of Medicine), the Veterans Administration with more than 150 hospitals, and the many state university medical schools as well as the prestigious private medical schools and research institutions, such as the Mayo Clinic.

The future of the internationally famous Medical Research Center at Brookhaven must not be placed in jeopardy by uncertainties about the continuation of the hospital's operation. It can serve an important function in research on the impact of energy production and use upon human health. For this reason it deserves the utmost expert attention and the fullest financial support, commensurate with the crucial importance of the energy problem to the national welfare.



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