November 17, 1969

Edwin E. Stokely, Assistant Director for Programs
Division of Public Information, Washington

POSSIBLE FEATURE

We are enclosing a proposed feature story submitted by the Puerto Rico Nuclear Center for your consideration.

Five photographs for possible use with the feature are attached also.

We believe citing PRNC as an international center would be desirable but recognize that the feature as now drafted is too long. Perhaps Pete can shorten it for use.

[illegible] on the "cocaine bit" mentioned on page 2. It might fit the quarterly feature page with a photo.

Wayne Range
Assistant to the Manager
Oak Ridge Operations

Enclosures:
1. Proposed feature story
2. Five photographs

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Form AEC-318 (Rev. 9-53) AECM 0240 ☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1968 O-320-807

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December 2, 1969

**Dr. J. P. Morgan, Manager**
**Puerto Rico Area Office**

**FEATURE STORY ON PRNC**

**We appreciate the feature submitted by your memo of November 12 on the Puerto Rico Nuclear Center which we have since forwarded to Headquarters for future use.**

In reviewing the article, we were particularly interested in **the reference to studies on cocaine listed on page two of the story (copy of that portion attached). We and Headquarters** were wondering if that one specific research project might be **covered a little more fully for use as a second, short (perhaps no more than a page or two) feature story which could be issued separately?**

**If such a story could be developed, we would certainly appreciate it.**

**J. T. Alexander**
**Public Information Officer**
Oak Ridge Operations

Enclosure:
**Page 2 of Feature Story**

**AIR MAIL**

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| DATE ▶ | 12/2/69 | | | | | |

UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
P. O. BOX BB
HATO REY, PUERTO RICO

IN REPLY REFER TO:

November 12, 1969

Wayne Range, Assistant to the Manager
for Public Education, OROO

FEATURE STORIES ON PRNC PROGRAMS

Enclosed as requested in your memorandum dated November 18, 1969 are two copies of a feature story "Scientists from Many Nations Work at Puerto Rico Nuclear Center".

Also enclosed is a letter from F. E. Rushford dated November 6, 1969 transmitting the feature story informing that PRNC will submit another feature story dealing with Latin American students studying at PRNC.

J. P. Morgan, Area Manager
Puerto Rico Area Office

Enclosures: 0 1
As stated above

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P. O. BOX BB

BATO REY, PUERTO RICO

November 12, 1969

Wayne Range, Assistant to the Manager
for Public Education, OROO

FEATURE STORIES ON PREC PROGRAMS

Enclosed as requested in your memorandum dated November 18, 1969 are two copies of a feature story "Scientists from Many Nations Work at Puerto Rico Nuclear Center".

Also enclosed is a letter from F. E. Rushford dated November 6, 1969 transmitting the feature story informing that PREC will submit another feature story dealing with Latin American students studying at PREC.

J. P. Morgan, Area Manager
Puerto Rico Area Office

Enclosures:
As stated above

PRNC 4-1

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**PUERTO RICO NUCLEAR CENTER**
OPERATED BY
UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO
FOR
U. S. ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

CABLE ADDRESS:
NUCLEAR. San Juan

ADDRESS REPLY TO:
Caparra Heights Station
San Juan, P. R. 00935


November 6, 1969

Dr. J. P. Morgan, Manager
Puerto Rico Area Office
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
Hato Rey, Puerto Rico

Dear Dr. Morgan:

In your November 20, 1968 letter to Dr. Gomberg you requested that we prepare some feature stories on PRNC for possible use in the AEC's news feature page.

Earlier in the year we sent you one on PRNC's "one-ship navy" (Frank Lowman's Marine Biology program) and we now submit three copies of another on the scientists from different countries who are working at PRNC.

Together with the story, we submit five (5) 8" x 10" photos, with captions on the back. If the AEC requires more prints of these photos, please let us know, as we have the negatives.

We have another feature story in mind, dealing with Latin American students studying with fellowships at PRNC, and hope to have something for you soon.

Sincerely yours,

Frederick E. Rushford

Frederick E. Rushford
Technical Assistant to the Director

hca

Enclosures

cc: Dr. Henry J. Gomberg
Mr. Kal Wagenheim

1125517

XEROX COPY

XEROX COPY

US AEC Press Release

SCIENTISTS FROM MANY NATIONS WORK
AT PUERTO RICO NUCLEAR CENTER

SAN JUAN, P.R. -- Puerto Rico, located midway between North and South America, is becoming a meeting ground for the cultures of those two great continents.

Spanish prevails on this Caribbean island, which is a commonwealth associated with the United States, but English is a widely spoken second language.

The Puerto Rico Nuclear Center offers a good example of how the island acts as a cultural bridge. The Center has been operated since 1957 by the University of Puerto Rico under a contract with the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission.

The Nuclear Center engages in training and research in the peaceful uses of atomic energy in medicine, biology and the physical sciences. Its staff of 300 includes 80 scientists. The Center is bilingual, with most formal lectures given in Spanish. This has attracted many scientists from Latin America, who complement the Puerto Rican, North American, European and Asian staff members.

During its first decade, the Nuclear Center trained 1500 students; over 200 of these are foreign nationals from 18 different Latin American republics. Most of the others are native-born Puerto Ricans, who are U.S. citizens.

Dr. Henry J. Gomberg, an American physicist who directs the Center, says that "Puerto Rico is ideal as a training ground for scientists and

students who plan to continue their careers in the developing nations of South and Central America."

"Here in Puerto Rico," he says, "we have excellent modern equipment and maintain high standards. But we are also small enough, and share enough of the cultural characteristics of our neighbors to the south so that a student here can work in an atmosphere to which he can later relate. On the other hand, sending a young man from a Latin American country to a huge, ultra-modern laboratory on the U.S. mainland can sometimes be counter-productive. He may become frustrated when he returns home and finds that he has to function under comparatively modest conditions. Puerto Rico combines the conditions of modern scientific facilities in a developing area, which shows him what he can accomplish and how he can function in his own native land."

A good example is the case of Peruvian graduate student Roger Ramos Aliaga, who is doing research on cocaine with the Center's Medical Sciences and Radiobiology Division. In South America's Andean region, where Mr. Ramos was born, nearly ten million Indians are addicted to cocaine, which they chew in the form of coca leaves. These Andeans all suffer from malnutrition due to protein deficiencies. Mr. Ramos is studying whether cocaine in some way helps, or alleviates, the undernourished cocaine addict's hunger. He is using nuclear technology by labeling the cocaine with radioactive carbon(Carbon 14) and tracing its effects in experimental mice. At the Nuclear Center, he has access to equipment not always available in Latin America; at the same time, he is in a familiar atmosphere, since many of his colleagues, and most of the Center's technical assistants, speak Spanish.

The Center's scientific staff presents a bouillabaisse of citizenships and native tongues.

A Puerto Rican doctor, Sergio Irizarry Rivera, heads the Clinical Radioisotopes Applications Division, which teaches physicians to use radioisotopes for diagnosis and therapy. Another Puerto Rican doctor, Víctor S. Marcial, operates the Radiotherapy and Cancer Division.

Dr. Julio A. Gonzalo-González, from Spain, directs the Nuclear Science Division, whose staff includes two other Spaniards, and a scientist from Guyana.

The Center's Hot Atom Chemistry project is headed by British chemist Owen H. Wheeler, who is assisted by two Puerto Rican researchers. Another British chemist, Alec Grimison, works with a colleague from Argentine, José Castrillón, in the Radiation Chemistry project.

The Nuclear Engineering Division, headed by American engineer Donald S. Sasscer, has a Hungarian and an Ecuadorian scientist on its staff.

In Physical Sciences, a Puerto Rican physicist, Dr. Amador Cobas, directs the work of scientists from Argentina, Great Britain, Germany and Israel.

In Agricultural Bio-Sciences, the program head is Francis K.S. Koo, from mainland China, who received his doctorate from the University of Minnesota. Other scientists working with him come from America, Puerto Rico, India and the British West Indies.

A Peruvian, Doctor Jorge Chiriboga, directs the Medical Sciences and Radiobiology Division, which has important research projects headed by a Puerto Rican, Dr. Julio I. Colón; a Spaniard, Dr. Ramiro Martínez Silva; and an American, Dr. Lawrence S. Ritchie.

A Puerto Rican engineer, Richard Brown Campos, supervises the operation of the Center's research reactors. A Greek scientist, Dr. Peter A.

Paraskevoudakis, heads the Health Physics Program. A Spaniard, Juan Silva Parra, is in charge of the International Exhibits Program, which collaborates with the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission's "Atoms in Action" exhibits throughout Latin America.

An example of the Nuclear Center's growing role as an international meeting place was the American Nuclear Society's Symposium on Radiation and Isotope Technology in Latin American Development, held last May in San Juan, with the Nuclear Center serving as host installation.

Scientists from all parts of North and South America, and some from as far away as Japan and Israel, met for three days to hear and discuss sixty different technical papers. All the meetings had simultaneous Spanish-English translation facilities. The proceedings of this symposium are to be published in a bi-lingual volume.

The Puerto Rico Nuclear Center is also making its presence felt by sending emissaries from the island to other areas. A group of its marine biologists recently completed a six-month tour off the waters of Panamá as a preliminary environmental study for a sea-level Isthmian canal. An agriculture specialist has been in Guatemala, helping scientists there in a program to preserve fruits by radiation. Another is in Thailand, applying techniques learned here in sterilizing insects that cause serious crop damage by radiation. Another is working in Vienna, with the International Atomic Energy Agency. Others have traveled to Colombia, to investigate whether modern nuclear techniques might be applied in studying soil conditions in the vast Llanos plains area.

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