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MINUTES

134th MEETING

ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE  
U. S. ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

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May 7-8, 1970

Environmental and Life Sciences Division  
Battelle-Northwest Laboratory  
Richland, Washington

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The 134th meeting of the Advisory Committee for Biology and Medicine was held on May 7-8, 1970, at the Battelle-Northwest Laboratory, Richland, Washington. ACBM members in attendance were Drs. Philip P. Cohen (Chairman), Robert D. Moseley, Jr. (Vice-Chairman), William F. Bale, Arie J. Haagen-Smit and Perry R. Stout, and Rosemary Elmo (Executive Secretary). Dr. Cohen was present for only a portion of the morning session on the 7th since he was recalled to the University of Wisconsin due to campus disturbances there. Dr. Moseley acted as Chairman after Dr. Cohen's departure. Also in attendance were Dr. Clement A. Finch, Professor, Department of Medicine, University of Washington, Seattle, who will become a member of the ACBM in July 1970; Dr. John Totter, Director, Division of Biology and Medicine, and several members of his staff (Dr. John S. Kirby-Smith, Dr. C. W. Edington and Mr. John C. Whitnah); Mrs. Gail Bradshaw, Division of Public Information, AEC and Dr. Robert A. Conard, Medical Department, Brookhaven National Laboratory.

The meeting on the 7th began with a welcome by Mr. Donald G. Williams, Manager of the Richland Operations Office. The program, organized by Dr. E. L. Alpen, Manager of the Environmental and Life Sciences Division of BNWL, involved reports by the various staff members on the programs of the Departments of Atmospheric Resources, Radiological Sciences, Ecosystems and Biology carried out under AEC sponsorship. Of particular interest to the ACBM were reports on the progress made in new techniques and sensitive instrumentation for use in medical research and health physics (H. E. Palmer, Radiological Sciences), thermal stress problems (W. L. Templeton, Ecosystems Department) chronic <sup>90</sup>Sr toxicity and inhaled plutonium toxicity (J. F. Park, Biology Department) and studies concerning co-carcinogenicity of uranium

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mine air contaminants. (B. O. Stuart, Biology Department).

Dr. Robert A. Conard, Medical Department, BNL, presented his latest observations and data on the Rongelapese and discussed future plans for monitoring the Bikini people before their return to the Atoll and plans for medical radiological surveillance of the people after resettlement.

In its executive session the ACBM recommended that consideration be given to the development of some mechanisms for payment to the Utirik population as research subjects in a way to assure their continued cooperation with the investigation of the Marshallese accidentally exposed to radioactive fallout in 1954. The ACBM recognized that in view of the low dose of radiation received by the Utirik population the mechanism for payment must avoid the connotation that this was compensation for radiation exposure. The ACBM also noted the necessity for continued medical care of the Rongelap population probably by the assignment of a paramedical person on a continuing basis to insure that the late effects of these accidental exposures are adequately detected and managed as well as to insure the validity of the continuing investigation of the medical findings in this group.

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The ACBM recommended that the AEC investigate mechanisms of stimulating the creation of monograph on natural radiation backgrounds, possibly under the aegis of the National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council and/or the National Council on Radiological Protection and Measurements. The ACBM felt that in view of the concern being expressed by members of the scientific community concerning the relevancy of present radiation protection standards, an in-depth investigation of the quantity and quality of unavoidable natural radiation would be of great assistance in putting these problems in proper perspective.