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## 7he RAND Corporation

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28 April 1953

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Doctor Walter D. Claus Chief, Biophysics Branch Division of Biology and Medicine United States Atomic Energy Commission Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Doctor Claus:

US Dot ARCHIVES
326 U.S. ATOMIC ENERGY
COMMISSION

RG DOE HISTORIAN (DBM)

Box 3363

Folder #2

Attached is a letter to Doctor Harry Wexler of the Weather Bureau, inviting him to preside over our radioactive fallout conference this summer. We certainly hope he will accept, for it would be hard to find a man better qualified for the job. Most of the problems center about the behavior of the atmosphere in one way or another, and so it is appropriate that a leading meteorologist be in the chair. In addition, he has the sort of patience and tact, combined with a good deal of drive, which will insure that the job gets done.

We have suggested in the letter that he call you to get any further background information. We hope you will back up our statement about the importance of the job, for he is a busy man and would only do it if he were convinced of our need for him. You will also be able to tell him more about RAND's position in the project, our contractural relations with the AEC and Air Force, etc., than we could tell him in the letter.

As soon as we hear from Wexler (and we will call him Friday, if he does not reply first) we will go whead full steam with the invitations and plans. It may be hard to get some of the people at this late date, but we hope to set acceptances from a good fraction of the names on the list.

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WWK:aj Encl. (1) Sincerely yours,

Win W. Kellog

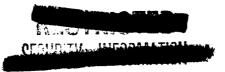
W. W. Kellogg Electronics Division

ORGANIZATION & MANAGEMENT

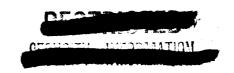
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INGLE REVIEW AUTHORIZED BY:

REVIEWER



DOS ARCHIVES



28 April 1953

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Doctor Harry Wexler, Chief Scientific Services Division United States Weather Bureau Washington 25, D. C.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Dear Harry:

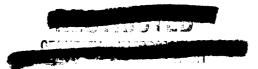
This is to confirm and amplify our telephone invitation of this morning concerning the fallout symposium which is to be held at RAMD this summer. You must have been a little startled at having it presented to you so abruptly, but we did want to get an idea as to whether there was a chance of getting you before we wrote.

We are tentatively planning to start on the 29th of June and continue for two or three weeks. The date of the start is fairly firm now, but the length of time is not.

This symposium has been planned in the hope of bringing forth a report which will fairly state the position of the fallout problem at the present time, and to cutline a reasonable course of action for improving the situation. To date there has been a wide diversity of opinion as to the importance of this problem. Now realistic answers are being demanded, because of its importance in the operation of test sites and in the making of war plans. Such matters should obviously not be decided on unfounded opinion, but on the best possible guess, and it seemed to us that the way to get such a "best guess" would be to assemble a group of qualified people and let them thrash it out.

The preliminary plan of the conference is to first collect a large group of interested persons at a two or three day symposium. Here the various viewpoints could be presented and discussed. Hext, there would be about a two week working conference to examine and analyse the available information, prepare a report summarizing the state of the art, and to recommend a research program. This working conference would be made up of a much smaller group of technical specialists, and this group would probably be further subdivided to work on various phases of the problem. Finally, the entire symposium would be re-convened to review and revise the report. Final editing would be handled by the RAND staff.

Attached is a proposed list of people for the symposium and we would appreciate any suggestions you may wish to give us as to personnel, plans or procedures.



## SUGGESTED LIST OF PARTICIPANTS IN RADIOACTIVE PALICUT COMPERSECE

Harry D. Smythe, AEC

Thomas E. Murray, AEC

Bugene M. Zuckert, AEC

Miward Teller, University of California

John Bugher, ABC

Marril Risenbud, NYOO, AEC

Roderick W. Spence, LASL

Gaslen L. Felt, LASL

Donald H. Rock, AFOAT-1

John Turkevich, Princeton University

A. F. Spilhaus, University of Minnesota

Robert E. Holser, University of California at Los Angeles

James H. Shearer, Tracerlab

Cmdr. E. W. Pate, J-3 Div., JTF 132

Robert F. Bacher, Caltech

George M. Kavanaugh, AEC

MORKING GROUP. PHASE 2

Philip W. Allen, USWB

Capt, Russell Maynard, USN, AFSWP

Maj. Thomas A. Gibson, USAF, AFSVP

Maj. N. M. Inlejian, USAF, ARDC

Capt. Kendall Russell, USAF, ARDC

C. E. Anderson, GED, AFCRC

Heins Lettau, CRD, AFCRC (not currently AEC cleared)

Col. George F. Taylor, ARDC

Don Perkins, AFDAP, USAF

John von Neumann, Institute for Advanced Studies

Walter D. Claus, DEM, AEC

Forrest Western, DEM, AEC

Col. Ben G. Holaman, Kirtland Air Force

Harry Wexler, Chief, SSD, USWB

Lester Machta, USWB

Herbert Scoville, Jr., AFSWP

S. G. English, Division of Research, AEC

Milton S. Messet, Caltech, RAND consultant

consultant

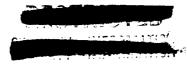
Westington D.C.

Forrest Gilsore, Caltech, RAED
consultant

4222 758 50 Ed 7 Paul Pine, ABC

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As I mentioned on the phone, we have been working on this problem for about ten months at RAND, and have already some feel for the factors involved and a collection of available data. Thus, we will not be starting from scratch, and many of the people attending can also be said to have their feet wet. Certain specific problems are now becoming clearer, and some of these are:

- o What effect will an atom burst have if set off in a convectively unstable atmosphere?
- o How will the stability of the atmosphere and the yield effect the height of rise of the cloud?
- o What limits can be put on the eddy diffusion rates in the free air? (Lester Machta is, I know, concerned with this, and I am writing him a separate letter.)
- o What is the scavenging efficiency of sand particles or raindrops?
- o How will the worldwide circulation spread the debris?

You will undoubtedly think of other factors, and these are just to indicate the scope of the general problem of radioactive contamination from either one bomb or from a large scale campaign using many such weapons. It is evident that both cases should be considered. You may notice that we have not mentioned the biological problems associated with radioactive contamination. We will try to take these into account where necessary, but the major purpose of the symposium is to pin down where the products will go rather than to tell about their effects.

We have no illusions that the proposed conference will solve all of the problems. We do believe, however, that if it is properly run it can do much to clarify them. We hope to persuade you to take on the job of running the conference, because this is the sort of problem on which you have worked before. Most of the factors are concerned with the behavior of the atmosphere in one way or another, and so the meteorologists will have to play an important role. We are convinced that you will be able to exercise the control necessary to keep the conference on the right track and to provide the drive necessary to achieve our end. You will receive all possible help from us in the leg work, planning and write-up phases.

We hope that you can be convinced of the importance of this symposium and will consent to help us. If you accept the chairmanship, one of us on the RAND working group will visit you in Washington well ahead of time to consult with you on the agenda for the symposium, and to tell you in detail about our work to date. In the meantime, you may want to talk to Doctor Walter Claus or Doctor Forest Western of the AEC in Washington, who know about our plans.

Sincerely yours,

WWK:aj

W. W. Kellogg Electronics Division

