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IM:JCB

October 27, 1952

*[Handwritten signature]*

Dr. Leonard A. Scheele  
Surgeon General  
Public Health Service  
Federal Security Agency  
Washington 25, D. C.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Dear Dr. Scheele:

While no biomedical experimentation is planned for this autumn in connection with atomic detonations, it is important that at the earliest opportunity we conduct certain experiments especially in the area of the biological effect of neutrons. It now appears that such an opportunity will be forthcoming in a series of detonations at the Nevada Test Site in the spring of 1953.

The Biomedical Test Planning and Screening Committee, of which Dr. Howard L. Andrews of your organization is a member, is now completing the review of a number of experiments particularly suitable to this test.

We have requested that Commander Eugene P. Cronkite, MC, USN, be assigned to direct the execution of this experimental program. Commander Cronkite feels it would be very desirable and conducive to the efficient conduct of these intricate experiments if he could be assisted by Dr. W. T. S. Thorpe, Chief, Section of Comparative Pathology, NIH, and Dr. George Brecher, Pathologist, NIH. Both of these men have demonstrated, by their past collaboration with Dr. Cronkite, their special fitness and ability in the field of the effects of radiation and large-scale handling of small animal colonies.

Since this particular study is aimed at some of the Public Health problems concerned with the evaluation of shelters and the determination of hazards in shelters, we especially request the assignment of Drs. Thorpe and Brecher to Commander Cronkite's team for a period of approximately six weeks during March and April, 1953.

In the event this request is approved, it is suggested that Drs. Thorpe and Brecher contact Commander Cronkite for further details.

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MILITARY RESEARCH & APPL.

Dr. Leonard A. Scheel

October 27, 1952

Your cooperation and assistance in this matter will be very much appreciated.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

John C. Langer, M.D.  
Director  
Division of Biology and Medicine

P.S. We understand that Drs. Thorpe and Brecher do not have "Q" clearances as would be required under the Atomic Energy Act for participation in this work. Accordingly, if this request is approved we would appreciate your having them execute 7 copies each of the PSQ forms which are enclosed, and returning them to us as soon as possible.

cc: Cdr. Eugene P. Cronkite  
Dr. W. T. S. Thorpe  
Dr. George Brecher

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