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326 U.S. ATOMIC ENERGY
COMMISSION

404692

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December 8, 1953

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Captain Wilbur E. Kellum
Commanding Officer
Naval Medical Research Institute
Bethesda 14, Maryland

Dear Captain Kellum:

The biomedical program conducted in Nevada in the Upshot-Knothole series of tests last spring has developed information very important not only to our general interests but of inestimable value to civil defense planning. The success of these experiments was due in large part to the participation of staff members of NMRI, and in particular to the very effective work of Commander Eugene Cronkite and those who served under his direction. The program was a very complicated one and involved relationships with many laboratories and universities throughout the country, and was conducted with an unusually high proportion of successful experiments. On behalf of the Atomic Energy Commission I wish to thank you for the great support you have given, and wish to request that you transmit to Commander Cronkite and the others of your staff who so effectively gave their energies to this program our very great appreciation of their accomplishments.

We are now confronted with the problems of making this information and experience of maximum value to the nation in as short a time as possible. I am calling a series of conferences in January and February which I hope will enjoy the participation of Commander Cronkite. The first of these is on January 14 and 15, 1954 in Washington and is a special meeting of the AEC Biomedical Program Directors called in from their stations around the country to be brought up-to-date on our present knowledge of weapons effects. These key men in the atomic energy biomedical program will then become centers for information and advice to civil defense officials in their areas.

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The next event following will be on January 21, 1954 when I wish to present to the Biomedical Planning and Screening Committee the results of the programs which they originally outlined and which was carried out at Nevada.

The third conference is an international one of very great importance. We plan to call a meeting of representatives of Canada, Great Britain and the United States for an exchange of classified information under the new topic of the Technical Cooperation Program. This will be a three-day conference in or near Washington, probably about the middle of February. It would be of the greatest value to the success of the conference if Commander Cronkite could be permitted to be a member of the American delegation. The conference will be called and organized by myself and will operate under the Atomic Energy Commission Technical Cooperation Program but will be audited by representatives of the Federal Civil Defense Administration.

In order to formalize this request, I am initiating the necessary communication to The Surgeon General, a copy of which is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

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

cc: Dr. Paul McDaniel

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