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REVIEWED BY DATE  
WILBUR A. STRAUER 4-17-81  
REVIEWED BY DATE  
BY: DICK MOOGLE 6-11-87

April 22, 1953

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Major General William O. Senter  
Commanding General  
Fourth Weather Group  
Air Weather Service  
Washington 25, D. C.

This document is being transmitted  
in the following manner  
to an individual

Dear General Senter:

Upon the recommendation of the General Manager and the approval by the Commission, the project known as "Gabriel" is to be accelerated and given a first priority status. It is also recognized that while certain portions of this project can be performed by contractors, the special talent, competence, and interest necessary for the successful completion of this study are to be found within the staff of the Commission itself. Accordingly, the study will be conducted in the Division of Biology and Medicine by the Biophysics Branch. Dr. Forrest Western will be responsible for the active conduct of the study program.

The objective of Project Gabriel (~~classification secret~~) is to determine the practical limits in the utilization of atomic reactions, especially in weapons. These limits are those at which the accumulation of the end-products of the reactions would be seriously detrimental to health and the normal balance of populations.

In order to obtain the factual evidence upon which such a study must be based, the Division of Biology and Medicine has sponsored, during the past year and a half, an extended series of investigations by various agencies and organizations which should, when completed, give us reliable information on the meteorological influences controlling fallout of bomb debris, the uptake of fission products by plants and animals, and the ultimate degree of hazard which may be occasioned by such materials. The accumulated data have assumed impressive proportions, and the time is ripe to initiate the intensive study now planned. In order to ensure that all phases of these investigations are properly considered and that all pertinent data are obtained for the study, it seems desirable that there be an advisory and consultive group which will make this program one of its chief interests. This will be designated as "Task Group Gabriel" and will be assembled from time to time by Dr. Walter Claus, Chief of the Biophysics Branch. It will not only be asked to review

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critically those portions of the research program now in operation, but also to recommend such additions as may be desirable and to review the findings and conclusions which result from various phases of the study. The medical and biological implications and interpretations of the physical findings of this study will be reviewed by the corresponding staffs of the Division, together with the appropriate liaison officers, before the final reports are submitted to the Commission.

It is anticipated that the Task Group will, from time to time, find it convenient to visit some of the installations and to engage in such other travel as in its judgment it finds necessary.

This Task Group would benefit greatly from the active participation of Colonel George Taylor of your Command. If this is agreeable to you, I would very much appreciate your designating him for this responsibility.

Sincerely yours,

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

P.S. Due to the urgency of this matter, Task Group Gabriel was called together for its first meeting on April 16 in my office. We very much appreciate the fact that Colonel Taylor was present at that meeting.

cc: Dr. Claus

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