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### PART III

### APPENDICES

APPENDIX NO. 1

MEMORANDUM TO COL. WILLIAM S. STONE, 14 November 1946

LONG-TERM FOLLOW-UP  
ON ATOMIC BOMB CASUALTIES

November 14, 1946

MEMORANDUM

To: Col. William S. Stone

From: Dr. P. S. Henshaw (For Dr. A. Brues and Dr. P. S. Henshaw)

Re: Long-term Follow-up on Atomic Bomb Casualties

The general background, objectives and mode of operation of the Follow-up Committee on Atomic Bomb Casualties is understood by the Committee (Dr. Brues and Henshaw, and Lts. Block, Neel and Ullrich) to be as follows:

On 15 May 1946, Col. A. W. Oughterson addressed a letter to the Surgeon General of the Army urging that the National Research Council be requested to make recommendations for the "planning and supervision" of a continuing study on atomic bomb damage to people. This suggestion was communicated by General Kirk on 28 May to Dr. Lewis H. Weed, Chairman, Division of Medical Sciences, National Research Council.

On 28 June, Dr. Weed replied after having consulted with representatives of the Army, Navy, Public Health Service, State Department, American Cancer Society and other groups, at a meeting chaired by Dr. C. P. Rhoads on 24 June. In the 28 June letter Dr. Weed recommended the following:

1. "That the Surgeon General, U. S. Army, and the Surgeon General of the Navy, inform the Chairman of the Division of Medical Sciences, National Research Council, that advice regarding studies of the atomic bomb casualties be considered part of the subject work under the overall contract for such services; and that the two Surgeons General request the immediate formation of a continuing council committee on this subject."
2. "That, if the formation of such a committee be approved by the Surgeon General, certain of the personnel of this committee be appointed Consultants to the Secretary of War, so that one or more members of the committee may be soon sent to Japan under military conditions to direct and stimulate the Japanese physicians in the continued study of the casualties and to establish relationships with the medical faculties of appropriate Japanese scientific institutions."
3. "That the Council's committee on atomic bomb casualties maintain a study of adequate breadth and detail, serving in an advisory capacity to the armed forces concerning policy, personnel and procedure, and soliciting funds from private agencies if federal funds become no longer available for this purpose."



In order that the long-range study could be continued even after the abandonment of military occupation under the present plan, the Conference-group of the Council (Weed's 28 June letter) voted to recommend that one of the following alternatives be effectuated by the Surgeons General of the Army, Navy and the Public Health Service:

- (a) "That steps be taken looking to the issuance of a Presidential Directive, instructing the National Academy of Sciences - National Research Council to undertake a long-range, continuing study of the biological and medical effects of the atomic bomb on man. That in this directive, the Council be authorized to enlist the aid of government agencies and personnel as may be needed."
- (b) "That steps be taken by the Surgeons General to request the President to create by Executive Order a Commission on Atomic Bomb Casualties, with power and funds to undertake the desired long range study. Such a Commission to be composed of one representative each of the three Surgeons General and of the Medical Director of the Veterans Administration and of five or more specifically qualified civilian scientists. The Commission could function in relation to the Research Council's Committee on the subject."

The Committee, composed of Brues, Henshaw, Block and Neel (Ullrich had not yet been appointed), met in Washington at the office of the National Research Council, 2101 Constitution Ave., Monday, 4 November, at which time the above details were outlined by Col. Stone and Dr. Weed. Others in attendance were: Col. Cooney, Manhattan Project; Capt. Dowling, Bureau of Research and Development, USN; Dr. Owen, NRC; Col. Mason, War Department; and Maj. Vogel, War Department. The Committee was asked to acquaint itself with all correspondence on the proposed follow-up program, to become familiar with the previously collected material and to make any helpful contacts prior to departure about 20 November.

Having now accumulated most of the views about a possible follow-up study, having seen a fair portion of the collected material and having seen something of the available facilities in Washington, the Committee conceives its activities to comprise:

1. A follow-up program concerned with all kinds of atomic bomb damage in people, especially the following:
  - Cancer
  - Leukemia
  - Shortened life span
  - Reduced vigor
  - Altered development
  - Sterility
  - Modified genetic pattern
  - Changes in vision
  - Shifted epidemiology
  - Abnormal pigmentation
  - Epilation



The Committee has no illusion about the difficulties of obtaining information of a late character, especially the genetic. In order to secure significant data on the latter within reasonable time, it may be necessary to resort to devious means such as examining conditions in animals (wild mice or Drosophila). Recovered persons will probably prefer to forget their tragic experience rather than submit themselves for examination. Some difficulty in connection with the securing of Japanese assistance may result from the recent purge orders. The Committee, however, is not pessimistic about the outlook providing a substantial long-term program can be set up - that is, several decades or longer depending on the genetic criteria established.

2. The function of the Committee will be two-fold primarily: (a) to obtain some technical information, and (b) to make detailed plans to submit as recommendations for a long-term program. In the accomplishment of these ends, it will be necessary to arrange and carry on a temporary technical study while developing plans for a long-term program. With respect to the overall program it would probably be desirable to have continuity between the temporary and the long-range organizations even if this must be on a very informal basis. Thus, it may be important to have certain members of the present Committee remain on field duty during the interim period.
3. In arranging for the interim organization, Japanese assistance will be solicited. Such work can be aided with the petty cash fund made available by the American Cancer Society through the Committee on Growth of the National Research Council. As a further means of encouraging the Japanese, they can now be told that certain of their articles have been cleared for publication. It is hoped that work with the Japanese will be on a high level and that they will wish to continue their contribution to science. \*
4. Finally, the overall organization for the long-term program, as visualized at this time would need to consist of a central coordinating agency in Washington and a field component in Japan. Whether storage, analysis, publication, etc., should take place mainly from the Washington office or field headquarters can best be indicated later. It is quite clear, however, that continued cooperation must be maintained with the Manhattan District animal research and the Navy investigations on Bikini animals. Further, it is plain that the Atomic Energy Commission must be fully advised.

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thor's note: Any misgivings about the intent of the Japanese soon were dispelled, as is amply evidenced elsewhere in this report.