

APPENDIX NO. 8

MEMORANDUM TO: COL. HARRY JOHNSON

RE: INTERIM PROGRAM

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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS
Public Health and Welfare Section

APO 500
27 December 1946

MEMORANDUM

To: Colonel Harry Johnson, Chief, Medical Service Division, PH & W

From: Dr. A. M. Brues and Dr. P. S. Henshaw, Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission, PH & W

Re: Interim Program, Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission

1. In accord with its original objectives, the Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission has taken the following steps:

a. Contacted the various Japanese investigators who have been making studies of atomic bomb casualties.

b. Visited Hiroshima and Nagasaki and surveyed the needs for setting up a long-term study of atomic bomb casualties.

c. Selected an appropriate control location (Kure) for study similar to that planned for Hiroshima.

2. In order to maintain a continuity between the present visits and the long-term program which it is expected will be initiated soon, Lts. Melvin A. Block and James V. Neel will remain in the area for the time being: Lt. Block for the remainder of his 90-day TDY and Lt. Neel for a longer period, requiring new orders by 23 February.

3. Lt. Block has been asked to facilitate the work on keloid studies as follows: to work in close collaboration with the Japanese group, which is making surgical follow-up studies (Dr. M. Tsuzuki and associates); to arrange for histopathologic preparations on 75 to 100 biopsy specimens at the 406th Medical Laboratory; to obtain slides and medical records in appropriate numbers; to obtain such photographs as are possible to illustrate the cases; to supply fixatives, drugs, and glassware where necessary to carry out keloid studies; to aid in statistical studies of keloid incidence; and to make such physical examinations as he can, consistent with the Japanese handling of the patients.

4. Lt. Neel is being asked to organize a long-term study relating to possible genetic effects of the atomic bombing, collaborating with the Japanese and SCAP groups dealing with vital statistics. Lt. Neel is also being asked to assist where he can in a general way in all phases of the study, and to serve as our central contact man during the "interim" period.

5. Lt. Ullrich (USNR), having completed his assignment, is to return to the United States in a week or so. This step is being taken after consultation with Capt. Shields Warren (USNR), Boston.

6. An attempt is being made, through Capt. Warren, to have Lt. Snell (USNR) transferred to this work.

7. As explained earlier, tentative arrangements have been made for office and laboratory space at the Red Cross Hospital in Hiroshima and at the Mutual Relief Hospital in Kure. Directives from your office will be needed to make these arrangements official.

8. Adequate coverage will be needed from your office to make it possible for Lts. Block and Neel to work in accord with military protocol, and, at the same time, on a high professional level. This will include billeting, messing and PX facilities, transportation (two jeeps and a sedan), off limits passes, and certain office help (2 stenographers, 2 interpreters and 2 laboratory assistants).

9. Letters from your office will be needed as follows:

a. To Col. R. C. Snyder, C.O. of Chugoku Region Military Government Team, Kure, to cover the items mentioned in paragraph 8 above;

b. To Col. Delnore, Nagasaki Military Government Team, saying that representatives of the Commission will need to visit Nagasaki during the interim period and that additional arrangement will need to be made later;

c. To the Japanese Red Cross Society, requesting the temporary use of two rooms on the second floor of the Red Cross Hospital in Hiroshima, as tentatively arranged;

d. To the Mutual Relief Society of Japan, requesting the temporary use of two rooms in the Kure Mutual Relief Hospital, as tentatively arranged; and

e. To the Japanese National Research Council, requesting that the working relationship between the ABCC and the Japanese groups studying atomic bomb casualties be continued on the same high plane as has been the case during the past few weeks, and that Dr. Masao Tsuzuki, in particular, be asked to continue his work with both the Japanese and the American groups.

10. It is requested that all persons or groups that may come to your office, interested in human atomic bomb damage, be referred at once to the ABCC. This is necessary because the present Commission has been formed at the request of most of the interested groups, in order to accomplish coordination.

11. Finally, Drs. Brues and Henshaw will return to Washington at least by the middle of January and will lay before the groups they represent (the National Research Council, American Cancer Society, Army, Navy, Manhattan District, Atomic Energy Commission, and Public Health Service) the situation in Japan pertaining to long-term casualty studies as they see it. It is expected that a formal organization with a director and budget will be established at once. In any case, information from Washington will come to you concerning further steps.