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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

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BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE - MARCH 1957Three-Year Medical Reexamination of the Rongelapese

Dr. Dunham will report orally on preliminary results of the medical reexamination of the Rongelapese conducted during March 1957. An interesting aspect of this last examination was the study of several of the natives in the whole-body radiation detection system ("Iron Room") at Argonne National Laboratory.

Dissemination of Information on Biology and Medicine Program

In accordance with the request made by the Commission at Meeting 1273 held on March 26, the following speeches made by members of the staff of the Division of Biology and Medicine are reported:

1. A description of the program of the Division of Biology and Medicine, H. C. Brown, Jr., Assistant Director for Administration, The Kiwanis Club, Gaithersburg, Md., April 9.
2. "Everybody's Business," C. W. Shilling, M.D., AMAL Scientific Seminar, U. S. Naval Air Development Center, Johnsville, Pa., April 5, and U. S. Naval Hospital, Philadelphia, Pa., same date.
3. "Effects of Radiation on the World's Most Priceless Material," C. W. Shilling, M.D., Colloquium on Radiation Effects on Materials, Co-sponsored by the Office of Naval Research and the Glenn L. Martin Co., Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md., March 28.
4. "Opening Remarks - Peaceful Medical Uses," C. L. Dunham, M.D., Conference on Health Aspects of Radioactivity, Pan-American Sanitary Bureau, Washington, D. C., April 5.
5. "The Concept of Permissible Exposure to Radiation," W. D. Claus, Biophysicist, Conference on Health Aspects of Radioactivity, Pan-American Sanitary Bureau, Washington, D. C. April 5.

6. "Medical Planning to Meet a Disaster Situation Effectively," "Everybody's Business," and a film on civil defense. C. W. Shilling, M.D., Tennessee State Medical Association, Nashville, Tenn., April 8 and 9.

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In addition, a statement on the subject of radiation hazards was prepared by the Division of Biology and Medicine for use by Senator Prescott Bush in replying to statements by members of the Yale University Department of Biophysics.

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The Division is presently working on a "hand-out" statement to be used in answer to numerous similar public inquiries which indicate a disturbing degree of misinformation on, or misunderstanding of the subject of fallout. This statement will be thoroughly coordinated with other interested divisions.

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Atomic Energy in Agriculture

The Division of Biology and Medicine is participating with the International Cooperation Administration, the Department of Agriculture, and the land-grant colleges in a three-month training program for foreign scientists. Arrangements have been made for 24 foreign scientists to visit locations in the United States from March 28 to June 29, 1957. They will also receive training in the application of the uses of atomic energy tools to the problems of research in soils, crops, and agronomy; livestock farming and animal husbandry; and food preservation.

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This project was initiated by the individual countries of Europe through application to the European Productivity Agency (EPA), which is in turn sponsored by the Organization for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC). Upon return to Europe, the study mission will report to OEEC/EPA and consult with them on the joint work program to be undertaken as Step II of this project. Step II will include contracting for possibly three United States atomic scientists to assist with the coordinated program in Europe, guided by OEEC/EPA. These specialists will collaborate with the members of the study mission in assisting countries to make maximum cooperative use of the knowledge and experience gained from the study in the United States. Arrangements for radioactive materials and supplies required to initiate the cooperative project in the European area are being made by the International Cooperation Administration.

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