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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 4, 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR:

AMBASSADOR STRAUSS
HAMILTON JORDAN
STU EIZENSTAT
— ANNE WEXLER
TIM KRAFT
JODY POWELL
JERRY RAFSHOON
PAT CADDELL

FROM:

RICK HUTCHESON *Rich*

RE:

Presidential Medal of Freedom

The President reviewed the attached Eizenstat/Wexler memo and returned it without comment. Subsequently, the First Lady asked that the memo be sent to you for suggestions of appropriate recipients of the Medal of Freedom, and then resubmitted to the President with a list of candidates.

I would appreciate having your comments by Monday, August 13.

Thank you.

cc: Madeline MacBean

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TO: Rick Hutcheson

FROM: Madeline MacBean 

See Mrs. Carter's handwritten note on
the attached.

She suggests that you ask the following
for names of candidates for the Medal of
Freedom and submit the list to the
President:

Hamilton Jordan
Bob Strauss
Stu Eizenstat
Anne Wexler
Tim Kraft
Pat Caddell
etc.

mfm
8/3/79

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

R,

Rick Hutcheson said the President sent this memo out with no comment.

mfm

8/1/79

I think we ought to get people working on names to submit to Jimmy. Then he will probably give the go-ahead AUG 2 1973

Jim Kraft
Pat Caddell
Ham,

Ann Weber
Bob Strauss
Stu E.
etc.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

8/4/79

TO: HJ
Bob Strauss
Stu
Anne Wexler
Kraft
Pat Caddell
Rafshoon
Jody

---Marian - retype in
appropriate protocol
order

FRO: RH

SUBJ Presidential Medal of Freedom

The President reviewed the attached Eizenstat/Wexler memo and returned it without comment. Subsequently, the First Lady asked that the memo be sent to you for suggestions of appropriate recipients of the Medal of Freedom, and then resubmitted to the President with a list of ~~proposed~~ candidates.

I would appreciate having your comments by Monday, August 13.

Thank you.

cc: Madeline MacBean

ID: 792831

192935

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

DATE: 29 JUN 79

FOR ACTION:

2935

INFO ONLY: VICE PRESIDENT HAMILTON JORDAN
 BOB LIPSHUTZ MOORE/LES FRANCIS
 JODY POWELL JERRY RAFSHOON
 ✓ FIRST LADY JACK WATSON

SUBJECT: EIZENSTAT/WEXLER MEMO RE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM

+++++
 + RESPONSE DUE TO RICK HUTCHESON STAFF SECRETARY (456-7052) +
 + BY: L200 PM MONDAY 02 JUL 79 +
 +++++

ACTION REQUESTED: CALL IF YOU WISH TO COMMENT

STAFF RESPONSE: () I CONCUR. () NO COMMENT. () HOLD.

PLEASE NOTE OTHER COMMENTS BELOW:

Did Jimmy decide not to do this?
John Rickover

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 27, 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: STU EIZENSTAT *Stu*
ANNE WEXLER *AW*

SUBJECT: Presidential Medal of Freedom

In July you will be asked to select individuals to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom. We recommend that you give this award to significantly more people than you have given it to in the past. The criteria for the Medal of Freedom are very broad, i.e., significant contributions to the national interest or world peace, or "cultural or other significant public or private endeavors", and the Medal may be awarded posthumously. Although there are a few other specialized awards such as the National Medal of Science, this is the only award you make as President to the general American citizenry. In the past, awards have gone to people from widely varying professions including artists, actors, writers, scientists, government officials, military generals, astronauts, doctors, labor leaders, lawyers, educators, athletes, etc. During your first two years in office you made four awards (Martin Luther King, Jonas Salk, Arthur Goldberg, Margaret Mead). We think you should award at least 10 to 15 Medals of Freedom this year for the following reasons:

- This is the only opportunity you have to make a Presidential general citizenship award to the large number of outstanding Americans who have made immensely significant contributions to American society, and to the world. As many individuals as possible should receive the recognition they deserve. Of course, this should be a truly special and limited award. But in light of the thousands who are deserving, awarding only 10 to 15 per year maintains this unique quality.
- Often, individuals who receive these awards have very wide public followings. This is an opportunity to have the public feel closer to their Government by showing that their Government appreciates those people who they so deeply respect.

- Although you made four awards during your first two years, Presidents Johnson, Nixon and Ford averaged 34, 10 and 20, respectively, for a similar period of time. Even if you make 20 awards this year raising your total to 24 for three years, this would be below the combined average of 32 for three years for the previous three Presidents. (52, 15 and 33 for Johnson, Nixon and Ford, respectively.)
- Making these awards is politically helpful with those constituencies who follow and respect the award recipients.

We will forward our nominees to Greg Schneiders who has been coordinating these awards. We hope you will indicate to Greg that this year you want to make more awards than in the past.

DF
w/ Onet

ID 793302

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

DATE: 04 AUG 79

FOR ACTION: STU EIZENSTAT

FRANK MOORE

ZBIG BRZEZINSKI - NC

JIM MCINTYRE - ~~asked for by [unclear]~~
asked by [unclear]

also circulated to [unclear] force

INFO ONLY: THE VICE PRESIDENT

FRANK PRESS - a Hacked

SUBJECT: CALIFANO MEMO RE RADIATION EXPOSURE INQUIRY

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+ RESPONSE DUE TO RICK HUTCHESON - STAFF SECRETARY (455-7052) +
+ BY: 1200 PM TUESDAY 07 AUG 79 +
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Copies of full report to action people only

ACTION REQUESTED: YOUR COMMENTS

STAFF RESPONSE: () I CONCUR. () NO COMMENT. () HOLD.

PLEASE NOTE OTHER COMMENTS BELOW:

9/11/ - intragency problem

DF
One

ID 793302

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

DATE: 04 AUG 79

FOR ACTION: SECRETARY BROWN

attached

SECRETARY MARSHALL

attached

SECRETARY DES. DUNCAN

- attached

ADMINISTRATOR COSTLE

attached

ADMINISTRATOR CLELAND

- attached

CHAIRMAN HENDRIE

Secretary Miller - attached

concur w/ response - attached

INFO ONLY:

SUBJECT: CALIFANO MEMO RE RADIATION EXPOSURE INQUIRY

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+ RESPONSE DUE TO RICK HITCHESON STAFF SECRETARY (456-7052) +

+ BY: 1200 PM TUESDAY 14 AUG 79 +

+++++

ACTION REQUESTED:

STAFF RESPONSE: () I CONCUR. () NO COMMENT. () HOLD.

PLEASE NOTE OTHER COMMENTS BELOW:

9/11/ - Interagency problem



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20201

AUG 2 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM : The Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare

SUBJECT: Radiation Exposure Inquiry

In a memorandum that you initialed, Messrs. Eizenstat and Brzezinski asked me in May 1978 to work with the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Energy, and the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to coordinate formulation of a program on the health effects of ionizing radiation. Subsequently, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of Labor were added to the addressees of the White House request.

This memorandum responds to your assignment. It is the last memorandum I will send to you as Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare. These recommendations and the attached report represent more than 15 months of hard work by people in this Department and throughout the Government.

I make the recommendations contained in this memorandum on the basis of my profound concern that the Government protect the public health in the area of low level radiation as effectively as possible. I make these recommendations without any bureaucratic stake in the outcome.

You asked that the program include:

- o A research program to determine the effects of radiation on human populations exposed to it;
- o A public information program to inform people who might have been affected and the general public about Federal agency activities;
- o A plan for ensuring that persons adversely affected by radiation exposure receive the care and benefits to which they may be or should be entitled;
- o Recommendations on steps to be taken to reduce radiation exposure in the future.

To carry out this directive, I established an Interagency Task Force on the Health Effects of Ionizing Radiation, chaired by the General Counsel of HEW. The Task Force included a high level official from each of seven agencies: HEW, the Department of Defense (DoD), the Department of Energy (DoE), the Department of Labor (DOL), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), and the Veterans Administration (VA).

The Task Force conducted its proceedings openly, consulting with interested members of Congress and their staffs, scientists representing different viewpoints on radiation, public interest and environmental groups, representatives of the nuclear power industry and of the medical professions, State agencies, labor unions, and veterans' organizations.

The Task Force addressed only ionizing radiation for a variety of reasons: The agencies involved with non-ionizing radiation are quite different; and a task force established by the Office of Science and Technology Policy is addressing non-ionizing radiation.

The Task Force issued its final report in June and made several major findings:

- o There is inadequate coordination among Federal agencies.

The Task Force found that coordination of radiation protection and research activities among the fifteen Federal agencies engaged in radiation use, study, and control has been ad hoc and inadequate. In addition, there are both overlaps and gaps in statutory authorities. These problems contribute to the public perception that the government has failed to address radiation issues in an effective and credible way.

- o DoE currently dominates research into the health effects of radiation.

Research into the health effects of ionizing radiation is dominated by DoE, an agency which is responsible for developing nuclear weapons and promoting and developing energy sources that can involve some exposure to

radiation. Although numerous agencies have research needs in this area, DOE conducts or supports more than 60 percent of research on the biological effects of ionizing radiation and more than 75 percent of the portion dealing with the effects on humans.

o Additional research is needed.

While more is known about the effects of ionizing radiation than is known about the effects of most other environmental and occupational hazards, there remain serious gaps in our knowledge about low-dose effects of radiation. In addition, improved access to records is necessary to facilitate epidemiologic research.

o Great difficulties exist in resolving radiation-related claims.

A number of persons are seeking care and benefits for injuries that may have resulted from radiation exposures, yet most programs do not have criteria for deciding radiation-related claims. The major barrier to resolving claims is the difficulty in distinguishing cancer and other injuries that may be radiation-related from those that are not.

o The greatest opportunity at present to reduce exposure to radiation lies in controlling unnecessary medical and dental exposures.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) estimates that a substantial number of exposures of medical and dental patients to radiation are unnecessary and can be eliminated. This is significant, since more than 90 percent of all exposure to man-made radiation comes from medical and dental sources.

o There is a lack of reliable public information.

Many people are concerned about radiation but do not have ready sources of information to answer questions.

These findings led the Task Force to recommend the establishment of a comprehensive and coordinated program on the health effects of ionizing radiation. It recommended changes in the institutional framework for handling both of the government's two major activities: the setting of radiation protection standards and the carrying out of research. In addition, the Task Force recommended many specific changes to improve Federal oversight

of the public's health and safety with respect to ionizing radiation. Members of the Task Force unanimously approved the final report and its recommendations and submitted it to me and to the heads of other Task Force agencies.

With two exceptions, described below, I am recommending that you adopt the Task Force's recommendations.

Following are the broad-based institutional changes that I recommend in the Federal government's program on the health effects of ionizing radiation:

- o Establish a radiation policy council which would be responsible for advising on broad radiation protection policy, chaired by EPA. (This differs from the Task Force recommendation that the chair be appointed by you from among the agencies represented on the committee.)
- o Establish an interagency research committee to coordinate research activities with respect to the health effects of ionizing radiation, chaired by the National Institutes of Health (NIH).
- o Shift the balance of funding and management of research in this area from DoE to NIH and other agencies that have health-related missions. (This differs from the Task Force's recommendation, as described on p. 7.)
- o Improve the capacity of Federal compensation programs to resolve claims of persons who believe their injuries to be the result of radiation exposure. You have established an interagency task force to study the compensation issue, which should consider this Task Force's recommendations.

The following sections describe in more detail and seek your approval of these recommendations affecting institutional arrangements and others concerning programmatic improvements.

I. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

In one of its most important and difficult tasks, the Task Force examined ways to improve the coordination and credibility of the Federal government's handling of issues relating to the use, study, and control of ionizing radiation. The Task Force recommended changes in the organization and coordination of Federal radiation protection and research activities.

A. Radiation Policy Council

The Federal Government is both a major user (e.g., medical x-rays, radiation therapy, weapons production) and a regulator (e.g., power generation) of sources of radiation. One of the most important issues considered by the Task Force was how to coordinate the activities of the Federal agencies involved to ensure that workers and the general public are adequately protected from unnecessary exposure to radiation.

EPA, the agency charged with providing guidance to Federal agencies on basic exposure limits, has over the years given a low priority to its responsibilities to provide radiation guidance. Recently, EPA has moved to increase significantly its commitment to these activities. The scope of EPA's authority is ambiguous in some areas, however, leading some other agencies to dispute its authority to provide guidance to them in their areas of responsibility. The Task Force considered two methods for coordinating radiation activities -- a lead agency approach and an interagency radiation council.

I support -- and I urge you to adopt -- the Task Force's recommendations to coordinate overall Federal radiation policy:

- o That a radiation policy council be established to be comprised of high level officials from all Federal agencies with major regulatory, operational, and research responsibilities in the field of radiation. It should be terminated automatically after four years unless the President decides otherwise.
- o The council should:
 - Advise on the formulation of broad radiation protection policy;
 - Coordinate Federal activities related to radiation use and control;
 - Resolve problems of jurisdiction among the agencies and recommend legislation to fill gaps in authority;

- Ensure effective liaison with the States and the Congress;
- Provide a forum for public participation and comment.
- o One of the council's first tasks should be to conduct a review of the guidance authority now exercised by EPA and the statutory authorities of other agencies to determine the appropriate scope of guidance, how the setting of guidance can be improved, and how its implementation can be reviewed to assure appropriate modifications in the future.
- o The council should be responsible for ensuring that the major recommendations of the Task Force on reduction of exposure and public information are implemented as soon as possible.

The council would centralize responsibility to review policy development on radiation-related issues and encourage coordination among the many agencies with relevant authorities. Since the sources and uses of radiation are varied, it is difficult for a single agency to provide leadership in all areas. The establishment of such a council is supported by most groups and individuals concerned with radiation protection.

I believe that EPA should remain as lead agency in establishing guidance authority bearing on radiation protection and recommend that you appoint EPA to chair the policy council. The policy council should have a small budget and immediate staff of 3-4 persons. EPA is probably the appropriate agency to provide the staff and budget support as needed.

Decision

- o Establish council as overall advisory and coordinating body as described.
yes _____ no _____
- o Appoint EPA to chair the council.
yes _____ no _____

B. Interagency Research Committee

While research on the health effects of ionizing radiation has been concentrated largely in DoE, numerous agencies have research needs in this area. The Congress has recognized the need to broaden the research effort in this area by directing several different agencies to expand their research activities:

- o HEW has been directed to establish a comprehensive program of research into the biological effects of low-level ionizing radiation and to review existing Federal agency research programs;
- o NRC and EPA, in consultation with HEW, have been directed to conduct preliminary studies of epidemiologic research into the health effects of low level ionizing radiation and to report to the Congress on the feasibility of options for study.

The Task Force recommended that steps be taken to improve coordination of the research effort on the health effects of low-level radiation and to ensure that different agencies' research needs were met. I support the following Task Force recommendations to accomplish these goals:

- o An interagency radiation research committee should be established, chaired by the National Institutes of Health and including representatives from all major research and regulatory agencies.
- o The interagency committee would be directed to perform the following functions:
 - Assure that the Federal government conducts a comprehensive research program on the biological effects of ionizing radiation;
 - Establish appropriate research priorities and coordinate agency research programs;
 - Ensure that the research needs of regulatory agencies will be addressed, by research agencies as well as by the regulatory agencies themselves;

- Identify appropriate agencies to fund research, according to guidelines developed by the committee;
- Review agency budgets and report to the Office of Management and Budget and to the President on the adequacy of support for radiation research;
- Develop criteria for research management, following a review by the National Academy of Sciences of Federal research management practices in this area;
- Review the status of on-going research projects;
- Ensure prompt dissemination of research results and promote the exchange of substantive ideas among scientists employed by Federal agencies.
- Provide a point of contact to groups and individuals outside government who are concerned with radiation research issues and seek their advice, consultation, and participation in the work of the committee.

In addition, the chair of the committee would be directed to consult regularly with the chair of the policy council.

Finally, I recommend that you require that the Director of NIH/Chair of the committee provide a separate report which describes whether sufficient research is being undertaken with respect to the health effects of ionizing radiation and, if not, what additional research is needed.

Decision

- o Establish an interagency research committee, as described.

yes _____ no _____

- o Appoint NIH to chair the committee.

yes _____ no _____

- o Require that the Director of NIH/Chair of the committee provide a separate report to OMB and the President.

yes _____ no _____

C. Agency Research Roles

The Task Force members agreed that the research roles of health and regulatory agencies should be increased in relation to the role of DoE. It considered recommending either increasing the future radiation research budgets of NIH and other research agencies, without increasing DoE's or transferring a portion of DoE's budget to those agencies.

However, it was not able to agree on either approach. As a compromise, it recommended that:

- o NIH assume a lead role in funding research.
- o Other health-oriented agencies like EPA, FDA, the Center for Disease Control, and the National Science Foundation expand their research roles in this area.
- o The research committee review existing programs and proposed research agenda, determine whether it is appropriate to transfer portions of DoE's research budget to other agencies, and, if transfer is appropriate, recommend which projects to transfer.

My recommendation goes beyond the Task Force's on this issue. I feel strongly that the major responsibility for research into the health effects of low-level radiation should be placed on an agency which has health-related research as its primary responsibility. The credibility of government-supported research in this area will be compromised if the major source of funding continues to be the agency responsible for developing nuclear weapons and developing and promoting energy sources that result in radiation exposure.

The inherently schizophrenic nature of this dual mission has already damaged the credibility of the government's effort to protect the public health; indeed there are responsible scientists who believe it has damaged the public health itself.

I believe that the balance of resources should be shifted from DoE to NIH and other health-related agencies over the next 2-3 fiscal years. A gradual building up of other agencies' research budgets, without shifting resources from DoE, would take too long and, in view of the other research priorities these agencies have, there is some question about whether a large increase primarily in this one area of research would be justified.

Other agencies disagree with this position. DoD opposes any shift in funding. DoE and EPA believe that the research committee should consider this issue, without prejudgment of whether or not any transfer should occur. The view of these agencies is that management of scientific studies in this field requires considerable specialized expertise as well as rapport with scientists and institutions that have performed this type of research in the past. They believe that DoE now possesses this expertise and these connections, whereas it will take NIH and others considerable time to develop them.

I believe that research funding could be shifted without losing valuable scientific expertise. The National Labs, for example, would continue undoubtedly to perform much of the radiation research regardless of where the funding and supervision were housed.

HEW has a strong interest in radiation research, particularly since it is responsible for helping ensure public safety in the area of medical x-rays. It is true that HEW has not played as strong a role in the past as it could have with respect to research in this area, but that is changing. The Director of NIH has established an Interagency Committee on Research into the Health Effects

of Ionizing Radiation, which includes representatives from all of the radiation-related agencies. That Committee is conducting a comprehensive review of radiation research and has already begun coordinating research efforts in some areas, including followup studies of the accident at Three Mile Island and a study of residents downwind from the Nevada atomic bomb test site. In addition, NIH is assuming greater responsibility in this area by enlarging significantly its own research effort on ionizing radiation.

Decision

- o Shift a significant portion of research funding and management from DoE to NIH and other health and regulatory agencies over the course of the next 2-3 fiscal years.

yes _____ no _____

If yes, how should it be accomplished?

_____ Shift a significant portion of research funding and management from DoE to NIH and other health and regulatory agencies over the course of the next 2-3 fiscal years. (Recommended)

_____ Increase research budgets of health and regulatory agencies, leaving DoE's as it is.

_____ NIH assume a lead role; other health oriented agencies like EPA, FDA, CDC, and NSF expand research roles; research committee reviews existing programs and the research agenda and determines which, if any, portions of DoE's budget should be transferred to other agencies.

_____ Other

D. Care and Benefits

You have recently established a task force to study compensation of persons who may have developed radiation-related illnesses as a result of exposure to nuclear weapons tests, particularly civilians residing

downwind from test sites. In addition, the task force will look at questions concerning compensation of workers and veterans that were raised by this Task Force. I recommend that the compensation task force also consider carefully the recommendations of this Task Force on care and benefits as it formulates its own recommendations.

Decision

- o Direct the compensation task force to consider the care and benefits recommendations of the Interagency Task Force on the Health Effects of Ionizing Radiation.

yes _____ no _____

II. PROGRAMMATIC IMPROVEMENTS

In addition to these important institutional changes, the Task Force made, and I support, a number of other significant recommendations to improve the Federal government's programs in the health effects of ionizing radiation.

While the following is not a comprehensive list of Task Force recommendations, I believe these are the recommendations that call for Presidential direction. Many of these, and others that are not included on this list, can be considered and implemented by the policy council once you have made decisions on the basic policy issues.*

A. Records and Privacy

The Administration's "Privacy of Researchers Records Act," if enacted, will significantly improve access to necessary Federal records, with safeguards to protect the privacy of individuals. In addition, the Task Force recommended certain other steps that can be taken within HEW to improve such access and I have directed the appropriate HEW components to implement them.

*The Task Force report, containing its recommendations is attached.

However, one important obstacle remains in this area. The Internal Revenue Code, with one limited exception, prohibits IRS or SSA from disclosing return information for research purposes. In some cases, researchers' access to this information could be crucial to the success of a research project because of the time, expense, and risk of failure in relying exclusively on decentralized local resources for the identification and location of study subjects.

The Task Force recommended the following action, which I support:

- o The Department of the Treasury and the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare should prepare a legislative proposal to amend the Internal Revenue Code to authorize the Internal Revenue Service and the Social Security Administration to disclose return information that is necessary for epidemiologic research with appropriate safeguards to protect the privacy of individuals whose records are disclosed.

Decision

- o Direct the Departments of Treasury and HEW to consider the need for a legislative proposal to amend the Internal Revenue Code as described and to develop a proposal, if needed.

yes _____ no _____

B. Reduction of Exposure

Half of radiation exposure is from man-made sources. The most significant exposure from man-made sources occurs during purposeful exposure of medical and dental patients to radiation for diagnosis of disease. The Task Force recommended that the following measures be taken to reduce exposure primarily from these sources:

- o Each potential opportunity for radiation exposure reduction should be reviewed in terms of its feasibility, cost, and the risks and benefits it would provide to society.

- o A program should be undertaken to reduce radiation exposure from medical sources.
- o Federal agencies should undertake on full and open review of existing exposure standards.
- o Human exposure and environmental monitoring should be expanded and better measurement technology developed.
- o State radiation control programs should be strengthened to help them to take on more responsibility for exposure reduction.

I recommend that the policy council consider these, and other recommendations of the Task Force on exposure reduction and where appropriate, develop recommendations for implementing them.

Decision

- o Refer Task force recommendations on exposure reduction to the policy council.

yes _____ no _____

C. Public Information

Information programs should be developed for the following target audiences, adapted to their needs and using appropriate channels of communication.

- o Health care personnel and patients
- o Workers exposed to radiation on the job
- o Persons exposed as a result of atmospheric nuclear tests
- o Those who live near facilities using radioactive materials
- o The general public

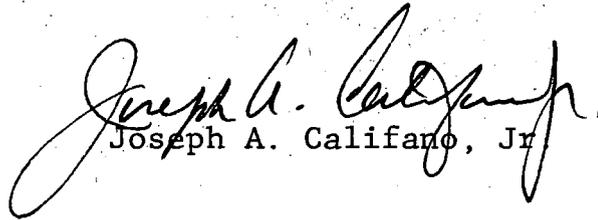
I recommend that the policy council consider what type of public information programs should be developed for each of these groups and to recommend steps to implement such programs.

Decision

o Refer Task Force recommendations on public information to the policy council.

yes _____

no _____


Joseph A. Califano, Jr

**REPORT OF THE
INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE
ON THE HEALTH EFFECTS
OF IONIZING RADIATION**

ID 793302

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

DATE: 04 AUG 79

FOR ACTION: STU EIZENSTAT

FRANK MOORE

ZBIG BRZEZINSKI

TIM MCINTYRE

INFO ONLY: THE VICE PRESIDENT

FRANK PRESS

SUBJECT: CALIFANO MEMO RE RADIATION EXPOSURE INQUIRY

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+ RESPONSE DUE TO RICK HUTCHESON STAFF SECRETARY (456-7052) +

+ BY: 1200 PM TUESDAY 07 AUG 79 +

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ACTION REQUESTED: YOUR COMMENTS

STAFF RESPONSE: I CONCUR. () NO COMMENT. () HOLD.

PLEASE NOTE OTHER COMMENTS BELOW:

For obvious reasons, Califano transmitted the above memo without seeking comments from the heads of the other participating agencies (DOD, DOE, VA, NRC, EPA, DOL). His aide, Rick Cotton, called and asked that I seek such responses. It will be wise to seek such comments, but we should not hold up transmittal to the President too long. Comments on the Memo itself are attached.

Gil Dean

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20500

August 7, 1979

MEMORANDUM TO: Rick Hutcheson

FROM: Gilbert S. Omenn GSO

SUBJECT: August 2, 1979 HEW Memorandum on Radiation
Exposure Inquiry

We have reviewed the memorandum and find it an accurate summary of the recommendations of the Interagency Task Force on the Health Effects of Ionizing Radiation. Where the Secretary does not agree with the Task Force, it is clearly indicated.

We are in basic agreement with the recommendations made in the memorandum.

However, I would like to make a few cautionary or clarifying comments. The statement on page 2 (paragraph 3) regarding non-ionizing radiation is inaccurate. The interagency task force examining the biological effects of non-ionizing radiation is chaired by the National Telecommunications and Information Agency of the Department of Commerce, not by OSTP. The effort is also much smaller than the HEW-led task force on ionizing radiation and is focused exclusively on the research issue. Finally, except for NRC, the agencies involved in non-ionizing radiation are the same ones as are involved in ionizing radiation. Consequently, we believe there are significant similarities between these two issues particularly as to how to determine effects at low-levels of exposure and how to assure research activities that are responsive to regulatory and operational needs. We propose, as has the responsible Senate Committee, that the Radiation Policy Council and the Interagency Research Committee recommended by the Secretary of HEW be instructed to include consideration of the biological effects of non-ionizing radiation.

The section on the Interagency Research Committee, pages 7-8, should include the operational agencies, as well as the research and regulatory agencies. Omission of the operational agencies (DOD, primarily) is probably an oversight, since operational agencies are mentioned on pages 5 and 6. It also should be kept in mind that the research coordination assigned to the Committee relates to biological effects research, not all research related to radiation such as research on uses of radiation.



VETERANS ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20420

August 14, 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Mr. Rick Hutcheson
Staff Secretary
The White House

As requested on August 8, 1979, the Veterans Administration has considered Secretary Califano's recommendations on the report of the Interagency Task Force on the Health Effects of Ionizing Radiation. This report vitally interests the Veterans Administration since we are responsible for the care and compensation of veterans exposed to ionizing radiation during service in the Armed Forces, are users of ionizing radiation for the diagnosis and treatment of veteran patients, and conduct research into the biomedical effects of radiation.

Our comments are indexed to the relevant sections of the Secretary's memorandum.

I. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

A. Radiation Policy Council

- o Establish council as overall advisory and coordinating body as described.

Concur.

Comment: The Veterans Administration should be represented on the council as having major care and compensation responsibilities and as a large user of ionizing radiation in the health field.

- o Appoint EPA to chair the council.

Do Not Concur.

Comment: The council should be chaired by a high-level official without administrative or operational responsibility for any one governmental agency in order to act as an impartial and independent

Mr. Rick Hutcheson

coordinator. This suggests that the President appoint a chairperson responsible to him directly or through the Office of Science and Technology.

B. Interagency Research Committee

- o Establish an interagency research committee as described.

Concur.

Comment: The council should have a facilitating and coordinating, rather than a supervisory, role in research in the various agencies. Supervisory authority would encroach on the authority of the appointed heads of the various Departments and independent Federal agencies without relevant research programs.

- o Appoint NIH to chair the committee.

Concur.

- o Require that the Director of NIH/Chair of the committee provide a separate report to OMB and the President.

Concur.

C. Agency Research Roles

- o Shift a significant portion of research funding and management from DOE to NIH and other health and regulatory agencies over the course of the next 2-3 fiscal years.

Do Not Concur.

Comment: There has been general satisfaction with the progress of research into the biological effects of ionizing radiation among experts in the field. Many of the criticisms stem from individuals who are disappointed by the outcome of some research; such dissatisfaction will persist so long as scientific results do not support opinions already held

Mr. Rick Hutcheson

regardless of who manages the funds. The Department of Health, Education, and Welfare simultaneously controls certain uses of ionizing radiation through the Food and Drug Administration, manages research on the same uses through the National Institutes of Health and has promoted the diagnostic use of such radiation through the National Cancer Institute. It seems as logical and effective for the Department of Energy to retain its research program as for the DHEW to assume it.

D. Care and Benefits

- o Direct the compensation task force to consider the care and benefits recommendations of the Interagency Task Force on the Health Effects of Ionizing Radiation.

Concur.

Comment: The Veterans Administration has so large a role in compensation that we should be represented on any task force to consider the issue.

II. PROGRAMMATIC IMPROVEMENTS

A. Records and Privacy

- o Direct the Departments of Treasury and HEW to consider the need for a legislative proposal to amend the Internal Revenue Code as described and to develop a proposal if needed.

Concur.

B. Reduction of Exposure

- o Refer Task Force recommendations on exposure reduction to the policy council.

Concur.

Mr. Rick Hutcheson

C. Public Information

- o Refer Task Force recommendations on public information to the policy council.

Concur.



MAX CLELAND
Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

AUG 15 1979

THE ADMINISTRATOR

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM : Douglas M. Costle

SUBJECT: Radiation Exposure Inquiry -- Recommendation of Secretary, DHEW

The August 2 memorandum from Mr. Califano recommends that you implement the recommendations of the Interagency Task Force on Health Effects and Ionizing Radiation by: 1) establishing a Radiation Policy Council to be chaired by EPA; 2) establishing an Interagency Research Committee to be chaired by NIH; 3) shifting research funding from DOE to NIH and other agencies having health-related missions; and 4) improving the capability of Federal compensation programs. I support all of these recommendations.

The recommendation for the establishment of a Radiation Policy Council resulted from extensive deliberations of the Interagency Task Force with major input from individuals and organizations outside the Federal government. The public response reflected a strong feeling that, given the multi-jurisdictional nature of the Federal government's radiation protection programs, a mechanism to assure coordinated and responsive radiation protection actions was needed.

Since primary responsibility for radiation protection was given to EPA at the time of its creation when the functions of the old Federal Radiation Council (FRC) were transferred to EPA, I feel strongly that EPA is in the best position to chair the new committee and to assure appropriate coordination among all agencies in developing recommendations for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas M. Costle".



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20220

August 14, 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR RICK HUTCHESON
STAFF SECRETARY
THE WHITE HOUSE

From: Curtis A. Hessler *Curt*
Executive Assistant to
The Secretary

Attached are the Treasury Department's comments on Mr. Califano's memo of August 2.

Our comments focus on the proposal to amend the Internal Revenue Code.



Department of the Treasury
Washington, D.C. 20220

3452

MEMORANDUM

Date: AUG 13 1979

To: Daniel H. Brill
Assistant Secretary (Economic Policy)

From: Donald C. Lubick *DL*
Assistant Secretary (Tax Policy)

Subject: Radiation Exposure Inquiry -- Secretary Califano's
Memorandum to the President of August 2, 1979

Secretary Califano's memorandum (p. 13) recommends that Treasury and HEW be directed to "prepare a legislative proposal to amend the Internal Revenue Code to authorize the Internal Revenue Service and the Social Security Administration to disclose return information that is necessary for epidemiologic research with appropriate safeguards to protect the privacy of individuals whose records are disclosed." The rationale for this proposal is that radiation researchers' access to return information would avoid "the time, expense, and risk of failure in relying exclusively on decentralized local resources for the identification and location of study subjects."

Tax Policy does not oppose this recommendation, provided access to return information is limited as set forth below.

Section 6103(m)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code now authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to disclose "the mailing address of taxpayers to officers and employees of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health solely for the purpose of locating individuals who are, or may have been, exposed to occupational hazards in order to determine the status of their health or to inform them of the possible need for medical care and treatment." Disclosure is granted only upon written request to the Secretary. We believe that an extension of this provision to cover specified radiation research, medical treatment and information services would insure protection of taxpayer privacy and provide adequate information to the proposed radiation program.

Accordingly, we do not oppose legislation to permit disclosure by the Secretary, upon written request, of the mailing address of taxpayers to officials of a specified agency or agencies (e.g., National Institutes of Health),



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solely for the purpose of locating individuals who are, or may have been, exposed to ionizing radiation in order to determine the status of their health or to inform them of the possible need for medical care and treatment.

We strongly oppose, however, disclosure of other tax return information, such as place of employment, receipt of medical reimbursement and payment of medical expenses. Such information is sensitive and must be kept confidential. We do not believe the proposed radiation research program has a legitimate need for such return information which outweighs the need to protect the integrity of our self-assessment income tax system.

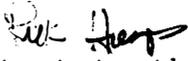
We would of course be happy to work with other agencies in developing a legislative proposal as outlined above.

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON

August 14, 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR RICK HUTCHESON

FROM: Richard Hayes 
Special Assistant to the Secretary

SUBJECT: Califano Memo re Radiation Exposure Inquiry
ID#793302

Attached draft memo reflects the comments of the
Department on the subject memo.

Let me know if you need anything more (523-8226).

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: THE SECRETARY OF LABOR
SUBJECT: Comments On Secretary Califano's
Memorandum With Respect To The
Radiation Task Force

The Department of Labor, as requested in Mr. Eizenstat's July 20, 1979 memorandum, has been participating in your Interagency Task Force On Compensation for Radiation-Related Illness. During the last year the Department of Labor has worked closely with the Interagency Task Force on the Health Effects of Ionizing Radiation and will continue to support the efforts of the compensation task force headed by the Justice Department.

As part of our participation in the New Task Force, I have been asked to comment on Secretary Califano's August 2, 1979 memorandum to you on the subject

"Radiation Exposure Inquiry." In that memo, Secretary Califano outlines a much broader approach to the problem of radiation illnesses than suggested in the July 20 memorandum from Mr. Eizenstat establishing the Task Force.

In addition to the compensation-related issues discussed in Mr. Eizenstat's memorandum, Secretary Califano recommends:

- o Establishment of two separate interagency councils, one for research and one for radiation policy.
- o A shift from DOE to HEW of health-related radiation research authority and funds.
- o Legislative proposals which will enable medical researchers to more effectively use IRS and Social Security Records.

- o A program to reduce exposure from various man made sources of radiation including medical x-rays.

- o Expand public information, and education programs regarding radiation hazards.

With respect to the radiation issue, I recognize the value of the broader approach recommended by Secretary Califano. Many of the issues discussed in his memorandum should be addressed through the existing Task Force or some other mechanism.



Department of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20585

August 14, 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: JIM SCHLESINGER
SUBJECT: Califano Memorandum Regarding
Radiation Exposure Inquiry

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "J. Schlesinger", written over the printed name.

In a memorandum dated August 2, 1979, Joe Califano made recommendations to you relating to the Interagency Task Force on the Health Effects of Ionizing Radiation. The Department of Energy supports the recommendations of the Task Force and strongly disagrees with two recommendations of Mr. Califano that differ from those of the Task Force:

1. "Establish a radiation policy council which would be responsible for advising on broad radiation protection policy, chaired by EPA." As the memorandum notes, this recommendation differs from the Task Force recommendation that the chair be appointed by the President from among the agencies represented on the committee. I do not object to EPA ultimately being named by you to chair the council, but believe that you should have ample opportunity to consider alternatives and possibly rotating chairmanship.
2. "Shift the balance of funding and management of research in this area from DOE to NIH and other agencies that have health-related missions." Mr. Califano's memorandum, pages 9-11, discusses at length the extensive departure of this recommendation from the Task Force recommendation. I disagree with going beyond the Task Force findings for the following reasons:
 - a. Mr. Califano's recommendation, in our view, does not accomplish anything of substance beyond what the Task Force recommends. Proceeding under the Task Force recommendations, I fully expect to see HEW and other government agencies' activities and budgets increase in this area. For example, HEW may wish to develop or enhance ionizing radiation research programs in

areas not now adequately addressed or funded such as in radiation epidemiological studies of fall-out around the Nevada Test Site or the long-term health of radium dial painters. In short, I support the Task Force recommendation that HEW/NIH assume an expanded role in research on ionizing radiation in a coordinated manner and with an orderly transition from DOE leadership.

- b. DOE must remain in a position to carry out high quality health effects research supporting its national defense and energy technology development mission. Not only does the Department have an impressive record of accomplishments in the ionizing radiation field, but it also has the researchers, equipment and facilities required to expand knowledge in this important area. In short, regardless of which Washington agency sponsors the research, the performance will remain the same and use the same talented and productive individuals that DOE has supported in the past.
- c. The argument for hurriedly shifting health effects research pertaining to ionizing radiation raises broader questions that in my view lead to an ill-advised conclusion. DOE believes that it has a major role in health effects research bearing on all energy technologies that it develops--not just nuclear. In assessing which technologies we seek to develop (or remedial action which may be required), we take health and environmental effects integrally into account in our decision-making process. Our policy-making is directed towards proceeding with economical energy supply in an acceptable manner from the point of view of environment and public health. We do not believe DOE health research represents a "conflict of interest," but rather a central factor in our ultimate decisions.

In summary, I believe the Task Force recommendations are well balanced and well considered and that you should accept them and direct their implementation.



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

18 AUG 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

In general, I endorse Secretary Califano's memorandum recommending changes to governmental programs on ionizing radiation research and protection. The Interagency Task Force Report upon which it was based was the result of a remarkably broad-based and extensive review of the issues. Department of Defense personnel contributed significantly to this work. The results are useful and the Report's recommendations well-considered.

With regard to Secretary Califano's recommendations which go beyond, or differ with, those in the interagency report, and without specifically endorsing all of the latter, I want to note that I am not convinced that there should be a major shift in funding and management of research on the effects of radiation to NIH and other such agencies.

Harold Brown

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

AUG 24 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

James T. McIntyre, Jr. *J. M.*

SUBJECT:

Interagency Task Force Report of the
Health Effects of Ionizing Radiation

We have completed our review of the Report of the Interagency Task Force on the Health Effects of Ionizing Radiation, and Mr. Califano's memorandum transmitting the report. We concur in the recommendations of the task force and Mr. Califano except in two instances:

- Agency Research Roles (I.C.). I do not agree with Mr. Califano's recommendation for the outright transfer of DOE radiation research funds to HEW. This transfer was also rejected in the task force report, which was signed by representatives of HEW, DOD, DOE, EPA, DOL, NRC, and VA. While I believe that better coordination is needed in this area, any such transfers require further study (as proposed by the task force) and should be decided as part of the priorities established during the annual development of the budget.
- Records and Privacy (II.A.). The task force and Mr. Califano recommended that Treasury and HEW prepare a legislative proposal to amend the Internal Revenue Code that would permit researchers access to IRS and SSA files for epidemiologic studies. Any change in the policy regarding IRS/SSA files should be put off pending completion of an overall review of the handling of these materials. Such a study is now underway and any new initiatives should await the results of this OMB-led effort.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

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OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

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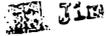
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cc Joe Dick
Frank Hess

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555



August 14, 1979

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On August 2, 1979, Secretary Califano sent to you his ~~recommendations~~ recommendations on the report prepared by the Interagency Task Force on the ~~Health~~ Health Effects of Ionizing Radiation.

I endorse his recommendations and assure you that this ~~agency~~ agency will cooperate fully with you and the other agencies in bringing ~~these~~ recommendations to reality.

Respectfully,

Joseph M. Hendrie