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ARGONNE NATIONAL LABORATORY

9700 SOUTH CASS AVENUE, ARGONNE, ILLINOIS 60439

Telephone 312/972-7678

December 19, 1986

Mr. G. Richards
Institute of Public Health
Bioscience
MacQuarie Hospital
North Ryde
Sydney, NSW 2013
AUSTRALIA

Dear Mr. Richards:

Dr. Fox of the New South Wales Health Department referred me to you, saying that he would inform you of the content of that phone conversation. Following my discussion with Dr. Fox, I decided that telex was not sufficiently confidential, hence the express service.

A child from Australia was injected with a long-lived alpha-emitting radionuclide when hospitalized for his terminal illness in 1946 (extract of death certificate enclosed).

Unlike the situation with the adults in that study, we believe it likely that one or more family members were present and may still be alive. There is more than adequate information on the death certificate to trace any survivors.

We would like to discuss this by telephone with family members with direct or indirect (if that is the best available) knowledge of what transpired in 1946. We wish to find out what they knew, how they felt about it at the time, and how they now feel about the situation.

Our request to you, at this time, is simply the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of family members who can assist us. As we wish to determine what they knew, we do not wish you to mention more than the hospitalization in the U.S. when you contact them. It might, in fact, be well if you were to record in your notes, or a memo, any details which they volunteer to you as to why we should be interested after all this time. At the end of our discussions we will, of course, answer any questions they might have and confirm our inquiry in writing if requested.

While we are under some pressure to acquire such information by 10 January, I frankly am not willing to raise this issue with the family until after the holidays.

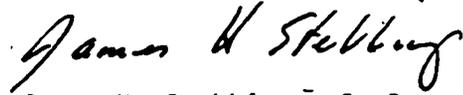
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Argonne National Laboratory is involved in this as we have under study large radium and thorium exposed populations, and a number of subjects with exposures to other internal emitters. This subject's record is now in our files.

Sincerely yours,



James H. Stebbings, Sc.D.
Epidemiology Group Leader
Division of Biological
and Medical Research

JHS:tah

T86058

cc: Mr. Fleischmann
Radiation Service Branch
Health Department of New South Wales
Lidcombe Hospital
Sydney, NSW 2141
(by air mail, with enclosure)

Enclosure: Abstract of Death Certificate

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