

FOREIGN TRIP REPORT

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A trip was made to Madrid, Spain from 25 June to 5 July, as a part of Project Indalo. Under this Project an annual visit is made to the Junta de Energia Nuclear (J.E.N. or Atomic Energy Commission). The purpose is to review the research conducted under the Project, partially funded by ERDA, and to plan future efforts.

In accordance with an agreement with ERDA, and made possible by increased funding, the Spanish have increased their personnel commitment to Project Indalo. This is expediting their analysis of soils and vegetation; a considerable back log of samples has existed for several years. Unfortunately two-thirds of their alpha spectrometers are no longer functioning and appear to be non-repairable. This problem will be alleviated in the next few months through the purchase of twelve new spectrometers.

Dr. Francisco de los Santos, chief of the whole-body counting laboratory, reported that his trip to the United States in 1976 was very beneficial to him and to his work. His current equipment continues to work very well although there is still some difficulty with high background rates for total-body spectrometry. Efforts are underway to correct this problem.

Research and monitoring programs now underway will continue in the future, subject to on-site conditions and results of on-going studies. The current level of effort will continue in the next fiscal year.

Dr. Emilio Iranzo, Head of the Medicine and Protection Division of the J.E.N. and in charge of Project Indalo for the Spanish, reported that he hopes to come to the United States late this year or early in 1978. He wishes to visit ERDA Headquarters and this Laboratory to meet and converse with those personnel involved in health protection programs, relevant to Project Indalo and the Spanish nuclear energy program.