



Department of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20545

March 13, 1978

Lt. Colonel George Kush, USAF
HQ USAF/SGPR
Washington, DC 20314

Dear Lt. Colonel Kush:

In reference to our telephone conversation on March 10, 1978, attached is a copy of a letter which Dr. Chester R. Richmond, then of H-Division at LASL, had sent to Colonel Lawrence T. Odland on March 11, 1974. Dr. Richmond has asked if the information mentioned in his letter could be obtained to be used in the official followup of the Palomares matter, for which he has a primary responsibility on behalf of the Department of Energy. Dr. Richmond's present position is:

Associate Director for Biomedical
and Environmental Sciences
Union Carbide Corporation
Oak Ridge National Laboratory
P. O. Box X
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

Any assistance to Dr. Richmond on this matter would be most appreciated.

Sincerely,

Signed by
Gordon C. Facer
Gordon C. Facer
Deputy Assistant Director
for Safety, Environment,
and Emergency Actions
Military Application

Attachment:
As stated

cc w/attachment:
Phillip Dean, LLL
Chester Richmond, ORNL
Bruce Wachholz, HQS:EV

H-DO 18861

March 11, 1974

Colonel Lawrence T. Odland, USAF, MC
Radiological Health Laboratory
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio 45433

Dear Colonel Odland:

I recently read your paper entitled "Industrial Medical Experience Associated with the Palomares Nuclear Incident" which appeared in the July 1968 Journal of Occupational Medicine. I was especially interested in the information on page 361 which states that Department of Defense pathologists were alerted to the desirability of collecting post-mortem pulmonary and thoracic lymphatic tissue from military personnel who worked at Palomares. Do you have additional data since your 1968 publication? Also, will the military personnel be followed or kept track of following separation from military service?

I would be most interested in any information you can supply me on this subject. I recently visited Palomares for the USAEC, and I am in the process of summarizing a report on my visit. I should like it to be as complete as possible.

I was also very interested in your case HPA 95-66. The extrapolated lung burden based on homogeneous distribution is similar (order of magnitude) to one case we recently reported in Health Physics 25:461-479 (1973). I have enclosed a copy of this report for your convenience.

I thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Chester R. Richmond
Alternate Health Division Leader

CRR:ES
Enc. reprint

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314



17 April 1978

Dr Chester R. Richmond
Associate Director for Biomedical
and Environmental Sciences
Union Carbide Corporation
Oak Ridge National Laboratory
PO Box X
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830

Dear Doctor Richmond

In response to your request for assistance in obtaining information mentioned in your 11 March 1974 letter to Colonel Lawrence T. Odland, the records of the USAF Occupational and Environmental Health Laboratory have been researched. Unfortunately, no record of a reply was found.

Contact with Colonel Odland, now retired from active service, was made and he indicated that no data beyond those reported in his July 1968 article entitled "Industrial Medicine Experience Associated with the Palomares Nuclear Incident," Journal of Occupational Medicine, were obtained. Although the desirability of follow-up studies was stated, the need for long term follow-up was apparently de-emphasized since all personnel selected for follow-up showed no measurable plutonium excretion after a relatively short period of six months to one year, and since the conclusion was reached that no individual exhibited a long term retention. In conclusion then, it must be said that no further data beyond what you have are available.

We hope that this information will be useful to you. Should you desire to pursue the matter further, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely

GEORGE S. KUSH, Lt Colonel, USAF, BSC
Asst for Medical Research & Standardization
Office of the Surgeon General

Cy to: Mr Facer ✓

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Suggested	
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