Department of Energy
Germantown, MD 20874-1290

SEP 1 0 1998

Mr. Robert Roach
Room 326
Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Roach:

Frank Hawkins, Director, Office of International Health Programs, asked that I prepare a package of information for your use concerning our office's Ukraine American Ocular Cataract Study in Chernobyl liquidators.

There are three major components to the cataract study: epidemiology, ophthalmology, and dosimetry. Scientists and physicians in each of these areas are technically competent, professional, and dedicated to the research. Also, there is good interaction among scientists of the three components as well as integration of scientific concepts among the three groups.

The original grant awarded to Columbia did not include salaries for the Ukrainian investigators, who are paid by the Ukrainian government. However, the high inflation rates in Ukraine following the dissolution of the former Soviet Union made it necessary to provide local salary support to the Ukrainians. Consequently, our office entered into separate funding agreements with the Institute for Occupational Health and the Radiation Protection Institute, respectively. The study is now entering year 4 of 6.

The principal researchers are:

American Principal Investigator: Basil Worgul, Ph.D., Director, Eye Radiation and Environmental Research Laboratory, Columbia University, New York. Dr. Worgul, with Professor Kundiev, shares responsibility for the conduct of the study.

Ukrainian Principal Investigator: Academician Professor Yuri Kundiev, M.D., Ph.D., D.Sc., Director, Institute for Occupational Health, Kiev, Ukraine. Professor Kundiev is an expert medical toxicologist who, with Dr. Worgul, shares responsibility for the conduct of the study. He has overall responsibility for Ukrainian investigators and specializes in the epidemiology component of the study.

Ukrainian Dosimetrist: Vadim Chumak, M.D., Ph.D., Director of the Department of Dosimetry of the Ukrainian Radiation Protection Institute, has the lead role in dosimetry.

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For your convenience, I have enclosed copies of the original grant application from Columbia, funding agreements, annual work proposals, and technical and financial progress reports. I hope that this information is helpful to you.

Sincerely,

Barrett N. Fountos

Barrett N. Fountos
Program Manager
Office of International
Health Programs