

Atomic Agency Plans Protection Against Wastes

Monaco (Science Service)—Ways of protecting the earth from contamination by the radioactive wastes created by the atomic energy industry will probably become the responsibility of the International Atomic Energy Agency which, with cooperation of UNESCO and FAO, has assembled some 200 scientists here to discuss the disposal of such wastes.

The agency also has set up a panel to formulate recommendations for an international agreement on disposal of radioactive wastes into the sea. Such an agreement would guarantee that no excessive amounts of radioactive waste products could be released into the oceans and build up to become a hazard to man.

To Consider Amendment

Shortly the General Assembly of the United Nations will consider an amendment to one of the articles concerning the law of the sea, which would provide the legal basis for the IAEA to become the acknowledged authority in the field of radiological protection and to set up internationally acceptable regulations for the prevention of pollution of the sea by radioactive wastes in amounts dangerous to man or his marine resources.

Dr. W. G. Kaufman of the University of California told the experts that the deep underlying formations of the earth might be the right storehouse for radioactive wastes. Dr. Kaufman believes that storing the waste products in sandstone formations might under certain circumstances be more economic than to provide sufficient chemical treatment in order to allow the discharge of the effluents to surplus streams or estuaries. A two-well prototype injection system has been in operation at the Engineering Field Station of the University of California for two years.

Pattern of Injection Wells

Synthetic wastes containing trace concentrations of strontium 89 and cesium 134 were continuously introduced into the ground for periods up to six weeks. For a disposal system, Dr. Kaufman conceived a pattern of injection wells for introducing the waste into the deep formations of the earth and relief wells which are to serve to reduce well-head pressures and at the same time direct the flow so that maximum use of the formation can be made.

Human Trachoma Virus Isolated By Researchers

Washington (Science Service)—For the first time in the United States, researchers have isolated a virus from the eye of a man with trachoma, a serious eye disease.

Light sensitivity, pain and tearing characterize this disease, in which the delicate membrane that lines the eyelids and covers the eyeball in front—the conjunctiva—becomes inflamed.

Questions Under Study

Now, many intriguing questions concerning this eye disease which afflicts close to half a billion persons are under study, a team of San Francisco researchers reports in the current Science. Found mainly in Africa, Asia and parts of Europe, the disease is no longer widespread in the U.S. where it occurs mostly in the West and Southwest.

Some of the research that can now be undertaken includes production of the virus toxin and studies of its "pathogenic potential." Scientists here are also interested in comparing this virus with those isolated from trachoma-infected eyes in China, Gambia (Africa) and Arabia.

Scrapings Obtained
The virus belongs to the elementary-body virus of the psittacosis-lymphogranuloma group, report Drs. L. Hanna, P. Thygeson and E. Jawetz of the University of California Medical School, and Dr. C. Dawson of the U. S. Public Health Service's Communicable Disease Center.

Scrapings were obtained from a trachoma patient's conjunctiva and injected into young embryo eggs. The virus strain found was similar in size and other properties to those grown by foreign researchers. Some monkeys inoculated with an egg yolk mixture of the virus had symptoms of the disease.

High Standard of Excellence Said Needed in America Today

By ELMER C. WALZER
UPI Financial Editor

New York (UPI)—What America needs most today is a high standard of excellence that once was provided by a top aristocracy, says a noted public relations counselor.

Philip Lesly, president of the P.R. firm that bears his name, believes that the greatest public relations need in

America is to develop that standard in all aspects of life so that young and old will aspire to exceptional appreciation for the things that lead to a better way of life.

At the same time, he told United Press International, the public relations industry needs a similar standard for its vast numbers of operatives.

He estimates that there are some 150,000 persons in public relations today. Of these, he culls out only a small number of really qualified professionals capable of providing sound judgment and analysis to knowledgeable

management executives, and of executing public relations programs effectively.

He finds no more than 300 such qualified professionals in the United States and not even 25 in the public relations counselling field.

Levels of Taste Going Up

He notes the general levels of public taste and standards definitely going up at a good pace—more musical instruments, travel, photography, adult education, art, hi-fi and stereo, and other activities.

But, he adds, "we have lost much of the top three to five per cent who used to be the

leaders not only in buying habits but in the establishment of standards."

Excellence, he says, must start at the top and exert its influence to larger groups.

He sees a "wonderful opportunity" for a foundation or a big donor to do a real service and win the good will of all thinking people in America by underwriting such a program.

"This," he says, "would include creating an attitude among leaders that it is important for workers to aspire to better things by knowing more, working hard-

er and deserving advancement."

Seniority Hampers Progress

"The stultifying policy of limiting advancements to longevity—otherwise known as 'seniority'—is a slow-acting poison to progress."

While public relations people haven't progressed as far as they should, he finds management's knowledge and understanding of the importance of public relations outrunning the capacity of most people.

This new trend, he notes, "is forcing businesses to attune themselves to group attitudes rather than to follow

the old policy of doing what they felt was good for the business and trying to put their policies over to the public."

The day of the "hard sell" is over in public relations, Lesly says, and the qualifications for a top PR specialist are so high few can meet them.

On an average day, some 100 million people (12 years and over) read a daily newspaper. The daily newspaper comes closer to reaching all of an advertiser's customers than any other ad medium.

Navy Keeping Eye On 10-Year-Old

Muskegon, Mich. (UPI)—The U.S. Navy is keeping its eye on 10-year-old Terry Gardner of Muskegon.

The fifth-grader has his own ideas about submarine warfare and the Navy thinks they're pretty good.

Terry recently submitted to President Eisenhower his theory on an underwater bomb capable of being launched from a submarine. The boy included sketches of his plan.

The President forwarded Terry's brochure to the Office of Naval Research, inventions evaluation branch. Division

director Lysle M. Shields wrote back:

"The parts you describe are very necessary to provide the operation of submarine torpedoes. These are standard and functional devices with which all submarines used to attack other water craft are equipped."

"The Navy appreciates the interest you have taken in underwater armament. Furthermore, we hope you will apply your keen, inquiring mind to the mastery of the scientific principles needed to attain the new achievements within your reach!"



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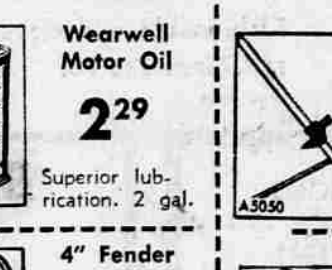
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