

FEDERAL NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



family members of the individuals subjected to these experiments and the one uranium survivor in January.

In October 1995, a Presidential Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments recommended that financial compensation be made to the surviving family members of the persons who received these injections. The details of these experiments and hundreds of others were released by Secretary O'Leary in late 1993, which resulted in investigation, review and recommendations by the advisory committee.

Since that time, legal claims have been made against the government and other parties involved in the experiments in 17 of the 18 cases. In addition to the 12 claims resolved in this settlement, one other plutonium claim was settled earlier this summer. The four additional plutonium claims continue to be negotiated by representatives from the Department of Energy and the Department of Justice.

—U.S. DEPT. OF ENERGY
11/21/96

ENVIRONMENT

COMMENTS INVITED ON REQUEST BY ROSE GROWERS

■ (WASHINGTON) The Environmental Protection Agency is inviting comments on a request from rose growers to allow workers to harvest roses by hand earlier than would otherwise be permitted under the Worker Protection Standard (WPS).

Among other things, the WPS prohibits agricultural workers from entering pesticide-treated areas for specified periods of time ranging from four to 72 or more hours (depending upon the toxicity of the pesticide) following pesticide applications.

The request by Roses Inc. covers all cut-rose production in greenhouses throughout the United States. According to Roses Inc. without an early-entry exception allowing for harvest of cut roses two times per day, cut-rose growers will lose a significant portion of their crop and therefore suffer substantial economic harm. Roses Inc. also maintains that health risks to workers would not be increased.

In 1994, EPA granted an exception that allowed, under specified conditions, early entry into pesticide-treated areas to harvest roses by hand for a maximum of three hours

during a 24-hour period. The exception expired in June of this year. In granting the 1994 exception, EPA noted that if rose growers needed an exception beyond the two years, the industry would need to provide additional information concerning economic hardship, as well as measures to mitigate risks to workers.

EPA is soliciting comments on whether the data submitted are adequate to support granting the requested exception.

Comments on the request by Roses Inc. are due to the Agency by Nov. 29 and should be sent to: Public Response and Program Resources Branch, Field Operations Division (7506C), U.S. EPA, 401 M St. S.W., Washington, D.C. 20460. The Federal Register notice of this announcement appeared on Oct. 30.

—ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
11/19/96

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

BIPARTISAN PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION CALLS FOR A 'NEW DIPLOMACY'

■ (WASHINGTON) America needs a new diplomacy rooted in the Information Age and designed to engage increasingly powerful foreign publics, the U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy said in its report to the President and Congress.

The Commission said America's foreign affairs agencies have yet to take advantage of the growing role of foreign publics and the revolutionary advances in technology.

"We have an immense edge in a world where people and information matter more," said Chairman Lewis Manilow. "To ignore this edge would waste an incredible opportunity. To exploit this edge requires a complete rethinking of U.S. foreign affairs agencies."

The report urges foreign affairs agencies to engage publics outside foreign ministries through wider personal contacts and by creative use of the Internet, the World Wide Web, and digital video conferencing. The Commission recognizes the effectiveness of non-governmental organizations with those publics and urges diplomats to seek out ways to work together with the non-governmental organization (NGO) sector.

The Commission also recommended:

- Building a global, high-speed interactive digital network for communication

within and between Washington agencies and U.S. missions abroad, and with NGOs and populations worldwide.

- Increasing polling and research studies to gain a better understanding of foreign attitudes; making these studies more broadly available to policymakers.

- Installing "firewalls" in the budgeting process so that foreign affairs agencies will not compete with domestic programs for funding.

- Decreasing foreign language radio broadcasting; plowing the savings into interactive digital communications.

- Institutionalizing inter-agency coordination on public diplomacy efforts; building a surge capacity that would allow inter-agency teams of public diplomacy experts to act quickly in crisis areas.

The bipartisan United States Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy is an independent, presidentially appointed citizens panel created by Congress to advise the President, Secretary of State, and U.S. Information Agency Director.

The full text of the report is available at <http://www.usia.gov> on the Internet.

—U.S. INFORMATION AGENCY
11/20/96

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

CHILD PROTECTION WAIVER APPROVED FOR NORTH CAROLINA

■ (WASHINGTON) U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Secretary Donna E. Shalala last week announced approval of a demonstration project to improve child protection services in North Carolina. This is the third waiver approved by the Clinton administration for states to undertake innovations in their child protection programs.

Under the demonstration, North Carolina can use title IV-E foster care funds to provide a broad range of new services to children and families. Funds can be used for services that can prevent the need for placement of children in foster care or to relieve the problems that caused the child to be removed from the home. Previously, these funds could be used primarily to pay for the room and board of children in out-of-home care.

In as many as five counties, the additional funding flexibility will be combined with a

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