NRC FOREIGN TRAVEL REPORT

Subject

Invited Speaker for Refresher Course RC-13, "Consequence Management of Malevolent Use of Radioactive Material" at the 12th International Congress of the International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA12) and nominated Health Physics Society Official Delegate to the Congress.

Organization & Dates Visited

October 18 – 25, 2008, Buenos Aires, Argentina, IRPA

Authors, Title, and Agency Affiliation

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Sensitivity

This report and its attachments are not sensitive and are publically available.

Background/Purpose of Meetings

The 12th IRPA Congress (IRPA12) was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, October 19 – 24, 2008. The theme of the Congress was "Strengthening Radiation Protection Worldwide." The Congress included three main fields of discussion: (1) Epistemological Basis of Radiation Protection; (2) Radiation Protection Paradigm; and (3) Radiation Protection and Safety in Practice. In addition to the program, 20 Refresher Courses (RC) were delivered by lecturers of known expertise and teaching competence. The subject traveler was an invited participant and lecturer (ML082390691) at IRPA12 and was one of 21 Official Health Physics Society Delegates to the Congress.

IRPA 12 was attended by more than 1300 individuals from more than 90 countries. More than 1500 papers and abstracts were submitted. The Congress successfully provided an opportunity for radiation protection professionals to network on a wide variety of issues, such as radiation protection, security and legal issues, which were addressed by travelers from the NRC. The invited refresher course (RC-13) that I presented provided lessons learned since the events of September 11, 2001, in planning for, establishing and integrating a radioactive materials security program into an overall regulatory infrastructure initially developed for health and safety purposes. The RC-13 accompanying technical paper (ML082890020) provided a compendium of NRC risk-based security approaches for participating countries consideration in enhancing the security of radioactive material worldwide.

The intended purpose for attendance was accomplished successfully. In addition to the widely attended conference, more that 120 attendees attended the RC-13 course which represented one of the largest attended courses at the Congress. These additional fees greatly helped to supplement the overall costs associated with IRPA12. As a nominated Health Physics Society Official Delegate to the Congress, I was able to participate in the Congresses Business meeting to vote on the next President and President-Elect, as well as to vote for the next venue of IRPA13. Additional on the margins discussions served to provide information on other country security-related topics of particular interest.

Attendance at the next Congress, IRPA13, was voted to be held in Glasgow, Scotland, in 2012, and is encouraged as an effective mechanism to interact and network with radiation protection and security professionals from around the world.

Discussion:

The IRPA 12 International Congress in Buenos Aires, October 19 to 24 drew 1,336 radiation protection specialists from 90 countries. These set IRPA Congress attendance records for both national representation and total attendance. The theme of the Congress was "Strengthening Radiation Protection Worldwide." The Congress included three main fields of discussion, namely Epistemological Basis of Radiation Protection, Radiation Protection Paradigm, and Radiation Protection and Safety in Practice. For each main field of discussion the Congress included background plenary presentations, topical sessions related to each scientific area within the field, and a concluding summary plenary discussion.

IRPA 12 was opened with a welcome to Buenos Aires by the Vice President for Congress Affairs, Dr. Abel Gonzales. His greeting was underscored by welcome messages from Ana Maria Bomben, Argentine Society for Radiation Protection (SAR); Raul Racana, Argentine Nuclear Regulatory Authority (ARN); Eugenio Curia, Argentine Ambassador to the International Organizations in Vienna; and Francisco Spano, (ARN). Dr. Eduardo Gallego, Chairman of the International Program Committee, outlined the highlights of the Congress schedule and Dr. Eliana Amaral, Head of the IAEA Division of Radiation and Waste Safety brought greetings from the Agency.

The highlight of the IRPA International Congress opening was the presentation of the Sievert Lecture. This year's award winner was Dr. Christian Streffer of Germany, who presented a lecture on, "Radiological Protection: Challenges and Fascinations of Biological Research." In addition, the opening session concluded with a tribute to former ICRP Chairman and Argentina native, Dr. Dan Beninson.

IRPA 12 had a very rich technical program with 1491 contributed papers. The program featured Special Plenary sessions with presentations by representatives from UNSCEAR and WHO on the Status of Levels and Effects of Radiation; ICNIRP, ICRP, and ICRU on Harmonization of Recommendations; and members of the Inter-Agency Committee on Radiation Safety (IAEA, EC, PAHO, WHO, ILO, NEA) on Radiation Safety in Practice: Towards an International Safety Regime. Additional special Plenaries were devoted to Low Dose and Low-Dose-Rate Effects and Models (NCRP), the Epistemology of Radiation Protection, Radiation Protection Paradigm and Stakeholder Involvement in Decision Making.

The program included more than 250 oral presentations. The Congress was attended by three individuals from the NRC: Steven Burns, OGC; Donald Cool, FMSE; and Stephanie Bush-Goddard, RES, in addition to me. Other specific details regarding their participation and experience for this meeting may be included in their subsequent trip reports.

Education and training was a key element of the Congress, which offered 20 Refresher Courses. The courses drew 1,050 participants, including multiple course attendance. A contributing factor to the success of the training program for IRPA 12 was the award of Continuing Education Credits for the courses by the American Academy of Health Physics. As part of this program, in November 2007, I was invited by the IPRA Program Committee to be one of 20 Refresher Course (RC) Lecturers and spoke on "Consequence Management of Malevolent Use of Radioactive Material: Strategies for Enhancing the Security of Radioactive Materials." More that 120 attendees paid for admission to the RC-13 course on October 23, 2008. For this training course, I developed training materials, including a written text and one-

hour oral PowerPoint presentation on October 23, 2008, to interested participants of the Congress. My written (ML082890020) and oral (ML082900109) presentations for RC-13 are provided as Attachments 1 and 2 to this report. Additional on the margins discussions served to provide further networking opportunities with other countries to assist them in advancing their materials security programs in their country.

All presentations, refresher courses, posters and recommended outcomes from the Congress are planned to be posted to the IRPA12 website at www.irpa12.org.ar.

Health Physics Delegation

Earlier this year, I was also selected and served as one of 21 Official Health Physics Society Delegates to the Congress. Accordingly, the four-year International Congress is the one occasion for IRPA to conduct its business. This began with the Associate Societies Forum. Phil Metcalf opened the Forum with a presentation of the Status of the Association, followed by a review of a draft guidance document on Stakeholder Engagement. Treasurer, Brian Dodd presented his report and outlined the proposed budget for 2008 to 2012. He gave an overview of a proposed revision of the Constitution – the first since the founding of IRPA. The French Society introduced a proposal to establish an IRPA Working Group to develop an IRPA guidance document on improving radiation protection culture. The work of this working group would be particularly aimed at assisting younger professionals.

The formal business of IRPA is conducted during the General Assembly (GA), with decisions made by the delegates of the Associate Societies, in which I represented the U.S. delegation of the Health Physics Society. The IRPA 12 GA took the following actions:

- Adopted the budget for 2008 to 2012, including a dues increase of $0.50 per Society member
- Approved the Constitution revision and three of four amendments. Amendment 2, which would require balanced regional representation on the Executive Council (E.C.), was not approved and referred to the new E.C. for further review
- Selected Glasgow as the venue for IRPA13, May 13-18, 2012
- The South African Society was asked to prepare a bid for IRPA14 in 2016

The International Congress is also the occasion for selecting new Executive Council officers and members. The new IRPA President is Dr. Ken Kase, U.S. and Ms. Renate Czarwinski, Germany, was selected as Vice-President. With the selection of Glasgow for IRPA 13, Roger Coates, U.K., became the new Vice-President for Congress Affairs.

Attendance at the next Congress, scheduled to be in Glasgow, Scotland, in 2012, is encouraged as an effective mechanism to interact and network with radiation protection and security professionals from around the world.

Pending Actions/Planned Next Steps for NRC:

There are no pending actions or next steps for the NRC related to the Congress.

Policy Issues: None.

"On the Margins"

Numerous discussions were held on the margins related to U.S. NRC efforts for enhanced security of sources and of the recently held CsCl Public Workshop on the Security and Continued Use of Cesium-137 Chloride Sources (Sept 29-30, 2008). Representatives that

requested additional public information regarding NRC security orders, increased controls, and a summary of the CsCl Public Workshop included the Australian Federal Police, the International Atomic Energy Agency, United Kingdom Radiation Protection and Emergency Response Organization, the European Commission and the Israeli Ministry of Environmental Protection. Links to the NRC public website for these activities were provided to these individuals during the IRPA12 Congress.

Attachment 1: Refresher Course RC-13 (ML082890020)
Attachment 2: C. Jones' RC-13 PowerPoint presentation (ML082900109)