



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HOSPITALS
1493 CAMBRIDGE STREET
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139
498-1349

MELVIN H. CHALFEN, M.D.
COMMISSIONER

Mr. Robert W. Healy
City Manager
Executive Office
City Hall
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

December 6, 1988

Council Order 7
Radiation emanations

Dear Mr. Healy:

Inquiries to MIT representatives both in administration and in the MIT Radiation Protection Office led to the prompt initiation of a program of measurement for radioactivity emanating from their Building 18. This building contains many chemical laboratories. Small amounts of radioactive substances called tracers are routinely used in various laboratory procedures under state and federal regulation.

The program included actual measurement with radiation detection instruments of each floor of Building 18 by radiation technicians. There were also interviews with various people from faculty to staff to physical plant personnel, people concerned with general laboratory safety as well as their own personal safety. In addition records were reviewed for any discrepancies in amounts of material brought into the building from amounts planned and allowed. Lastly the records of monitors in labs where radioactive tracer isotopes were used were re-examined to determine if any recordings over permissible levels were found.

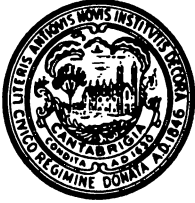
None of these activities led to findings of radiation emanating from Building 18. These points are generally made in Mr. Milnes' letter of 21 July 1988.

I have had no inquiries or concerns raised about additional similar incidents involving radiation at Building 18.

Yours sincerely,

Melvin H. Chalfen, M.D.
Commissioner

MHC:vls



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

TEL. 498-9011

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

ROBERT W. HEALY

City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI

Deputy City Manager

December 12, 1988

To the Honorable, the City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report No. 9 regarding radiation emanating from Building 18 at M.I.T., I submit the attached report from the Commissioner of Health and Hospitals which states that no form of radiation was measured at the site.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Healy", is written over a horizontal line.

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

Re: response to Awaiting Report Item 9 on
radiation emanating from Building 18 at
MIT.

In City Council,

December 12, 1988

12-12-88

Placed on file.