



# Australian Radiation Laboratory

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In reply please quote

## STATEMENT ON BUILDING OCCUPIED BY THE AUSTRALIAN RADIATION LABORATORY IN THE MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY GROUNDS

The following statement was prepared on 23 December 1980 prior to workmen from the Commonwealth Department of Housing and Construction undertaking repairs to the building occupied by the Laboratory, to put it in good order before handing over to the University of Melbourne.

"In 1938, a building was erected in the Melbourne University grounds for use by the Australian Radiation Laboratory. This was occupied until late 1979, when the Laboratory was transferred to new premises at Yallambie. Because manipulations with radioactive sources had been carried out in one section of the building, it had been proposed to demolish that section and subsequently to restore it to good order so that the building could be occupied by the Melbourne University. Prior to making the building ready for modification, a complete radiation survey of the entire building was undertaken to ensure that it was in satisfactory condition. This survey showed a number of small areas in which radioactive contamination had become fixed in flooring, walls etc. As such, that contamination created no health hazard to occupants of and visitors to the building.

In order to overcome any apprehension by persons working in the building after it had been completely vacated by the Laboratory, it was considered desirable that attempts be made to remove all the fixed contamination existing in the building. A thorough clean-up exercise was mounted in the building and this involved the partial removal of floors, wall surfacing etc. Following this action a final radiation survey was undertaken and this showed any remaining contamination to be far below levels considered clean by international standards. The result of the clean-up is that it became unnecessary to carry out the proposed demolition. All waste material arising from the clean-up has been removed from the building. The building is therefore declared to be clean, in accordance with international standards. There would be no health hazards that could be attributed to past activities carried out within the building."

On 29 July 1981, s 47F - privacy of the University of Melbourne advised that S had made a comprehensive contamination survey of the building, the building had been thoroughly and completely decontaminated and S did not see a need for a further survey. S had advised the University of Melbourne on 11 February 1981 that, with the exception of some wood in the loft (which he had removed), the building is free of contamination and there is no need to impose any radiological health restrictions on work in the building (copies of correspondence attached).

s 47F - privacy

13 August 1981