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of the concept of the "World Weather Watch," but had instead credited it to the recent National Academy of Sciences report to which I referred. I certainly did not intend such an implication.

To the best of my knowledge, the first mention of the "World Weather Watch" concept is contained in the document "First Report on the Advancement of Atmospheric Sciences and their Application in the Light of Developments in Outer Space," published by the World Meteorological Organization sometime in 1962. The draft of this report was prepared early in 1962; Harry Wexler and V. A. Bugayev were architects of many of the main features of the plan, as well as authors of the draft.

The idea of the World Weather Watch, and the name itself, apparently came out of the early discussions by Wexler and Bugayev, though it is often hard to know precisely where a name or concept finds its earliest source.

Those of us who knew and admired Wexler's fertile and unbounded mind can imagine Harry coming up with such an idea as the keystone of a vastly improved global meteorological observing system, or, if it had been Bugayev or some other participant who first advanced the idea, of Harry's seizing on it with enthusiasm and generously helping to elaborate it as it was described in the WMO first report.

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### Dimethyl Sulfoxide Conference

In the review of the DMSO Conference (Meetings, 17 June, p. 1646) a statement appears concerning our work at Letterman General Hospital. The impression is given that we have successfully completed studies with the use of topical DMSO as a vehicle for antibacterial agents in treating infections of the skin and as a vehicle for the topical application of insect repellents. This is incorrect. At the meeting, I tried to make clear that we were just beginning these studies when our work with DMSO on human skin in vivo was interrupted. I said that we plan to resume these studies, because the demonstrated rapid and deep penetration by materials incorporated in DMSO into the horny layer of the human skin and into the follicles indi-

cated that DMSO might increase the effectiveness of incorporated antibacterial agents in the treatment of pyodermas, dermatophytoses, and acne. I also said that it might be possible that the application of suitable insect repellents in DMSO, and their penetration into the horny layer and slow extrusion over many weeks could so prolong the effectiveness of the repellents as to render them much more useful in preventing insect-vector diseases, including malaria.

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Our group was quoted as reporting that "topical application of 70 percent DMSO helps clear gingivitis, without indication of untoward effect." We made no such statement; as a matter of fact we have had no experience whatsoever in this area of therapy. The following statement should be substituted: ".007 Decadron in a 70 percent solution of DMSO was found to have a useful suppressant action on certain chronic lesions of the oral mucous membranes without indication of untoward effects."

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Our work regarding intravesical instillation of DMSO was incorrectly reported. It was stated "that the instillation of undiluted DMSO for one hour daily into bladders of dogs resulted in no structural or functional changes." We reported gross edema following the intravesical instillation for one hour of varying concentrations of DMSO. The gross edema was minimal using 10 percent DMSO solution, moderate with 25 percent DMSO solution, but severe when 50 or 100 percent DMSO solutions were tested. Furthermore, the bladder of the dogs tested with 50 and 100 percent DMSO concentrations exhibited an acute inflammatory cell response both grossly and microscopically, 24 hours, and also, 7 days after the single test period. We did not demonstrate any effect from various DMSO concentrations on bladder function by the method we used. Our study definitely demonstrated that adverse effects occur locally when 50 and 100 percent DMSO test solution is instilled into the urinary bladder for a one hour period.

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