SAFETY IN STERILIZING MEDICAL PRODUCTS

Use of ionizing radiations for sterilization of materials used in medicine and biology is now well established. Techniques based on them are used industrially in certain countries for sterilizing syringes, instruments and medical materials, for preparing vaccines and for preparing tissues. Work is now advanced on the preparation of a code of practice suitable for international acceptance to assist in ensuring correct procedures for such operations.

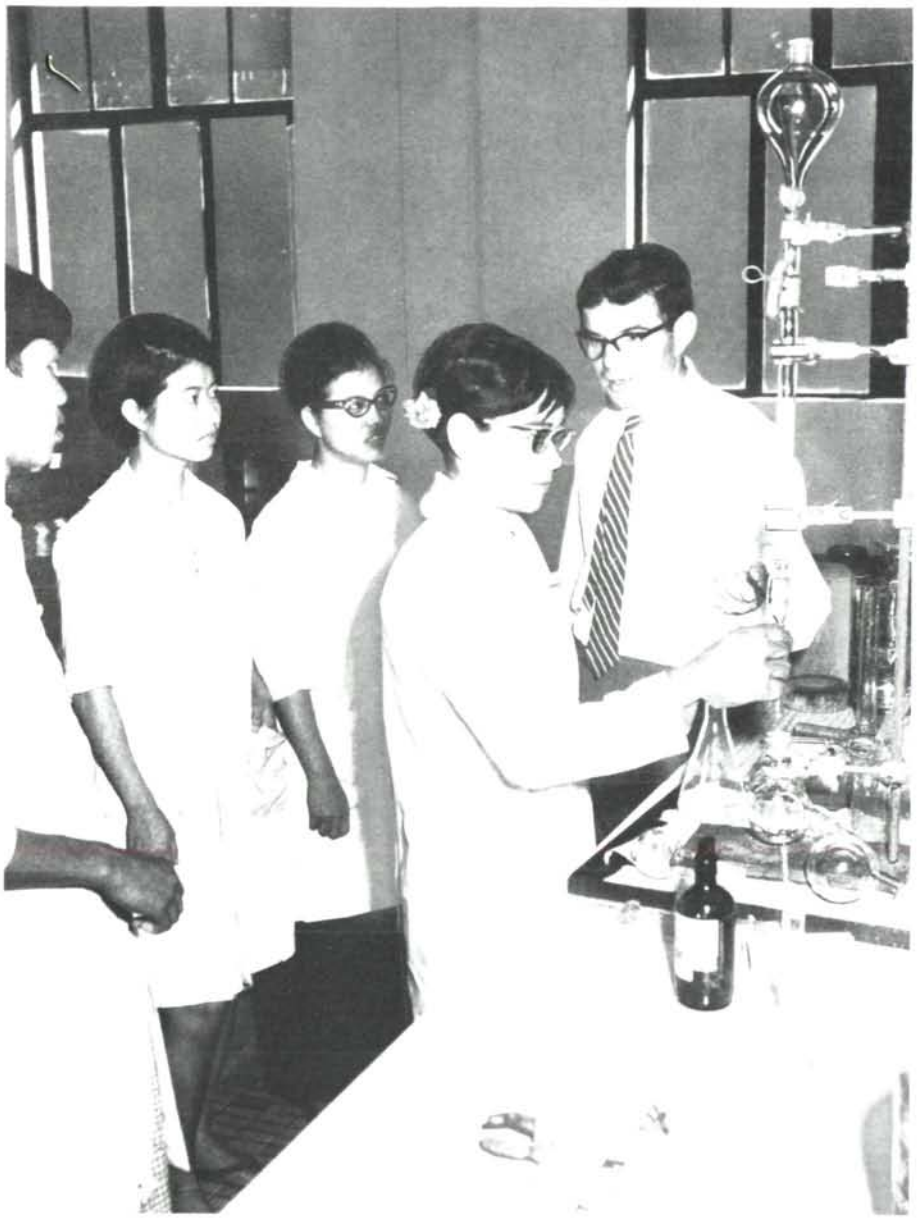
In 1964, when scientists from thirteen countries attended a meeting in Denmark to discuss the processes, it was decided that the Agency should organize the preparation of recommendations for an international code of practice. The members of that meeting formed a working party. Another meeting was held in London last April, and in December 1966, by which time the number of Member States of IAEA interested had increased to 20, final recommendations were drawn up at a panel meeting in Vienna.

The recommendations will be discussed again at an inportant symposium on radiosterilization of medical products to be held during June in Budapest and will later be considered by the World Health Organization.

ENCOURAGING RESEARCH AND TEACHING

In support of the Burmese Government's effort to encourage scientific research and teaching, the Agency provided, under the United Nations Development Programme, the services of an expert in nuclear chemistry. He stayed for three months at the Rangoon Arts and Science University. As a result a radiochemistry laboratory has been set up, where radioisotopes are used in chemical research and where radiochemistry is taught to fourth-year bachelor of science students.

In this UN picture Dr. G.G. Jayson (right) the IAEA expert and research students watch chemical operations in a glove box presented to the University by the Agency.



A glove box is a device to enable laboratory workers to handle materials which must not be touched with bare hands. Gloves, usually rubber, are fixed to ports in the wall so that objects inside can be manipulated. An additional precaution against contamination is to maintain a slight vacuum within the box so that any air flow is inwards.

THESIS ON SAFEGUARDS GAINS DOCTORATE

One of the most complete analyses yet to be made outside the Agency of its Safeguards system for preventing diversion of materials to military purposes has gained for its author a Doctorate of Philosophy. The subject was chosen as a thesis by Miss Gabrielle Martino, daughter of His Excellency Mr. Enrico Martino, Italian Ambassador to Austria and Resident Representative to IAEA.

Miss Martino has been studying in the Faculty of Political Science at Rome University. Her thesis, which runs to 110 pages, traces the history of safeguards and the stages in evolution to the system adopted by the General Conference at its 1965 Session held in Tokyo.
