Mr. MORRELL: The drug submission was accepted by us in November, 1960, and it was put on the market in April, 1961.

Mr. ORLIKOW: When was it finally withdrawn to the best ability of the company and the government?

Mr. MORRELL: Well, we notified them in March of 1962. We asked them if they would consider withdrawing it because of the reports from Europe of malformations. On March 2 they agreed to do so, and sent out the requests to their detail men and their salesmen at once.

Mr. ORLIKOW: In March?

Mr. MORRELL: In March, 1962.

Mr. ORLIKOW: When were the reports of the difficulties published in Europe, and I believe particularly in Germany?

Mr. MORRELL: The first thing we heard of it in Canada was at a meeting with the manufacturers on December 1, 1961, when they came in to report they had heard of a few cases of malformations of one kind or another that had been received in Germany, in particular, although there were some indications there were some as well in the United Kingdom. This was the first indication we had there were side effects that could be called serious in terms of malformation of children born by mothers who had taken it during the early part of pregnancy.

At that time the manufacturers told us they were sending a team to Europe to confirm or to clarify at least these reports they had heard at that time. At that meeting it was agreed that they should send at once a warning to all physicians in Canada that this was a possible side effect of the use of the drug in pregnancy. Their letters, I think, were sent out on December 5 or December 7. There were two companies involved. The letter went out at that time.

Subsequently we received reports that were rather conflicting from the manufacturers and which certainly were not clear with regard to what they had found in Germany. It was only when we saw a published article which was documented and quite clear in the *Lancet*—which I saw on February 28, because it took that long to get to me—that I became quite concerned and telephoned them on March 2 to point this out to them. I suggested they should recall the drug from the market. These are the steps in the recall of thalidomide from the market.

Mr. ORLIKOW: It seems to me there is a possibility of the same kind of difficulties occurring again if the first report you received about this difficulty came from the manufacturers. I am not being critical of a manufacturer, but he has some conflict of interest; he cannot help but have.

Mr. MORRELL: Of course.

Mr. ORLIKOW: It seems to me that perhaps the department should explore the possibility of closer co-operation between similar departments in other governments. I would think that this kind of a report should have come from a source other than the manufacturer. It may be that had there been closer co-operation, it may have come earlier than it did.

Mr. MORRELL: A great many steps have been taken since that time to do just what you are suggesting.

Mr. MACKASEY: You are suggesting there is a beneficial effect today.

Mr. MORRELL: I think everybody in the world would hear about it much, much more quickly.

Mr. MACKASEY: At least the tragedy has had that beneficial effect.

Mr. MORRELL: Yes. It has had many effects, and that is one beneficial effect.