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To: Dr. David Okrent, ACRS
From: George A. Thompson, Consultant to ACRS
Subject: Report on the Subcommittee meeting on Extreme
External Phenomena, Los Angeles 1-29 and 1-30,
1981

The main thrust of this meeting, a progress report on the Seismic Safety Margins Research Program, was uninspiring. I do not want to dwell on what others must also have observed. Briefly, however, much of the research is so method-oriented, so non-physical and so lacking in intermediate, testable goals that it may never be used. Bernreuter's work is a notable exception. His interaction with staff (Reiter) is likely to produce both short- and long-term benefits.

With further progress, it should be possible to use Bernreuter's probabilities to predict a summation of seismic moments per time interval for various regions and to compare this with geologically studied moment rates of faults. Such a comparison might provide a valuable consistency check for bridging to the longer term.

George Thompson

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