"In one analysis we found as many as 30 elements in the sample. Correspondingly, in good whisky you may find traces of as many as five elements only. The Treasury Department, once when they were looking just for lead traces, were amazed. They found 30 parts of lead per million in the whisky. You could not really drink too much of that. You could kill yourself."



Hubert Lefebvre de Laboulaye, who died on 21 January in an aircraft accident while on an official mission, was one of the Agency's first Deputy Directors General, holding office from 1958 to 1961.

Born in 1921, he studied at the Ecole Centrale in Paris and then at the Duc de Broglie's Laboratory, where he took up physics. In January 1947 he was among the first physicists to join the Commissariat a l'Energie Atomique, where he collaborated in the neutron experiments performed with the first reactor before moving on to nuclear physics. Starting in 1955 he participated in the international negotiations in the nuclear field which led to the organization of the first United Nations International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy, held at Geneva, in the establishment of EURATOM and in the creation of the Agency. On returning to France from Vienna he became head of the Programme Department of the Commissariat à l'Energie Atomique.

As Deputy Director General of the Agency he did much to promote economic studies and the drafting of international regulations for radiological protection.