

SAVE

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ARMY SERVICE FORCES
UNITED STATES ENGINEER OFFICE
P O BOX 1539
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

UNCLASSIFIED

Control Office
November 15, 1945

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15 November 1945

SEE IO
REFER TO

Subject: Responsibility for Plutonium at DP Site, West Area. (I)

To: Mr. J. E. Burke.

1. Your memorandum of 12 November 1945 on the above subject inquires as to our understanding on the responsibility for safeguarding plutonium at DP Site, and asks your belief that "except for minor losses incurred in processing, the responsibility for the safeguarding of this material lies with the Security Guard and the Security Office".

2. The Security Office attempts to assure itself, local and higher authorities that security policies in effect at this site are adequate. In addition, it controls a special force of guards (the "Security Guard") whose function it is to maintain effective guarding in the immediate vicinity of special materials whether in process, in storage or in transit. This guard provides means of discouraging and combatting attempts at theft of special materials, and we feel that no other means of comparable effectiveness exist in its absence. To this extent you are correct in believing that the responsibility for safeguarding plutonium at DP Site is that of the Security Guard and the Security Office.

3. It seems of importance to add, however, that Army regulations #380-5 provide that "The safeguarding of classified military information is the responsibility of all military personnel, civilian employees of the government and management, and employees of all commercial firms engaged in classified work or projects for the War Department". In this connection, Manhattan District Intelligence Bulletin #5 defines classified information as "all information concerning documents, devices and material relative to this Project designated as Top Secret, Secret, Confidential and Restricted, as well as the items themselves." Thus it is impossible to exempt from responsibility for the special material any person who works with it or any project employee who is aware of or suspects a possible source of danger to the material. Classified information and material can rarely be effectively safeguarded if all persons concerned with it do not feel personal responsibility for its safety. This is perhaps a rather philosophical reply to your inquiry. We will be glad to discuss with you any points which may have been overlooked.

CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED
JAN. 1973
PER DOC 15-11-1973

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T. O. Jones

T. O. Jones,
Captain, Corps of Engineers
Intelligence Officer

cc - Col. Seaman ✓
K. R. Jette

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