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L. M. Redman 12/12/79

FINAL DETERMINATION
UNCLASSIFIED
L. M. Redman
DEC 12, 1979

September 17, 1946

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
4/9/80
6/10/83

PER DOC REVIEW 11/1973

Major General L. R. Groves
P. O. Box 2610
Washington 25, D. C.

HISTORICAL

Dear General Groves:

Colonel Gee has delivered to me a letter from you in which you discuss the relationship which you wish to set up between this project, the Commanding Officer of the Post, and your office. Inasmuch as this represents a considerable change from the circumstances under which we have operated in the past, I wish to make certain comments which, I hope, will make this revision of policy as smooth as possible.

I am well aware that the demands upon your time are so extensive as to make it difficult for you to consider the detailed problems of policy at this project. Under these circumstances it is quite natural that you should appoint a representative who will speak in your name and to whom we may go for decisions in matters which have previously required your personal attention.

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LANL Classification Group

It is my opinion that it is wise to consider that Colonel Gee exercises two distinct and independent responsibilities which, for the present, are carried out by one individual, but which, in principle, might be done by two separate officers.

The first of these responsibilities he exercises as Commanding Officer of Manhattan District activities in the Santa Fe area, including the specific responsibility of Commanding Officer of the Post at Los Alamos.

The second of these responsibilities is that consequent to his designation by you as your personal representative.

It has been my understanding that the fundamental purpose of the Los Alamos Post and its military and contractual organizations is to enable the continuance of the activities of the Technical Area and, indeed, to assist them as much as possible by providing the necessary and desirable facilities for a community of highly technical personnel. It is clear in principle to everyone that without an effective Technical Area, there exists no need for a Post organization, and Los Alamos should be abandoned.

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At this point I wish to mention that as Director of this Project, I have assumed that my de facto responsibilities extend beyond the Technical Area. Since I am responsible for getting certain jobs done, I am therefore equally responsible that there be personnel to accomplish these tasks. Since these personnel are attached both to the Technical Area and the Post, I must feel a strong concern for the circumstances under which they and their families live. Particularly I must point out to the Commanding Officer, in advance if possible, when I foresee post administrative policies which may adversely affect the morale of project personnel and therefore affect the extent and character of the work which the project can accomplish. I do not believe that I can relinquish these concerns and responsibilities and continue to function effectively as Director of Los Alamos.

I believe that Colonel Gee and I can cooperate effectively along these lines, providing you concur in the understanding which I have expressed in the preceding paragraph.

With regard to the second aspect of Colonel Gee's duties, namely that of your personal representative at this site, I assume that it is your wish that I henceforth address correspondence on technical matters to him with a copy to your office. I shall assume that appropriate answers will be forthcoming from him. Since this will represent a new and untried policy at this project, I cannot predict its success at this time. However, I may assure you that I will employ every effort to make it a successful policy; that I will keep Colonel Gee informed of any matters which I may deem it advisable to take up directly with you; and that I will inform you and Colonel Gee if I believe that this policy is meeting with difficulty.

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Glee

May I suggest, as a matter of local expediency, that Colonel Gee when addressing me on technical matters sign for you "by direction" rather than as Commanding Officer? On matters affecting Post, Sandia, administration of contractual problems, he would naturally sign as Commanding Officer. May I further suggest that all correspondence on technical matters be directed by Colonel Gee exclusively to me as Director in order that I may then issue the necessary instructions to my staff? Answers or reports will then be formulated by me to Colonel Gee, as they would otherwise have been to you.

There is one point in your letter the phraseology of which, I believe, would be rather unsatisfactory to the Contractor, and to which I must take exception. While it happens that Colonel Betts is personally highly acceptable to

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General Groves

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me as Associate Director for Administration and Services (and I am considering adding Military Liaison to his duties as well), nevertheless, I must protest a statement in which Colonel Gee "assigns" Colonel Betts to this position. I would have greatly preferred to have Colonel Betts made available to me by Colonel Gee for this position if I so desired. Unless you inform me differently, I shall assume that this is the true meaning of the statement, and I shall inform Colonel Gee of my desire to have Colonel Betts continue to be associated with Technical Area activities. I entirely concur in the desirability of separating the responsibilities of the Commanding and Contracting Officer from those of Associate Director.

Colonel Gee has received a copy of this letter, I have discussed it with him, and I trust that you will inform both of us of any comments you may have.

Sincerely yours,

H. E. Bradbury
Director

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