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L. M. Redman

DEC 12, 1979

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6 September 1946

IN REPLY
REFER TO

EIDM CO

Dr. E. R. Jette
Acting Director
P.O. Box 1663
Santa Fe, New Mexico

L. M. Redman 12/12/79
Mark C. Baca 12/12/79

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Dear Dr. Jette:

DEC 09 1998

With regard to your letter of this date, I can only reply to your Paragraphs 9, 10 and 11 by saying "I do not know". I have been advised that I personally can expect a transfer, and that Colonel Gee was to assume station at this site. It is my understanding that Colonel Gee, on his last visit here, was acting on his own initiative based upon instructions, either oral or written, which he had received from General Groves or the District Engineer, Colonel Nichols, or both. The communications mentioned in your Paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4 were drafted by him and signed by me. They all deal with matters upon which Colonels Reper and Gee made inventory just recently, which matters, as I recall it was understood in Tech Beard and by Dr. Bradbury's philosophy were most especially a military responsibility.

I might take exception to your Paragraph 7. The organization chart you refer to is the organization chart of the University of California contractor, and not the organization chart of the total operations on this reservation. You are correct in assuming that all matters falling within the scope of the technical contract, such as the Supply and Administrative Division, of which I as Associate Director was appointed leader, are the responsibility of the Director. However, there are several other contractors on the Post and manifold Government operations of great responsibility, of which the Director has no cognizance and I personally am responsible to higher authority. No one in the Technical Area has appreciated the volume of work involved in operating a city the size of Los Alamos, nor the obligations devolving upon the senior War Department representative. As representative of the Contracting Officer on all contracts in force at Los Alamos also, you will appreciate I have the responsibility of administering the California contract, which immediate responsibility is delegated to Lt. Col. Stewart under my and Colonel Betts' supervision. While you state that there is no provision for the Director to report to the Commanding Officer, it is certainly true that the Commanding Officer cannot, by virtue of his position as senior representative of the Government, report to the Director, an employee of a contractor to the Government. Dr. Bradbury and I have worked in complete harmony, as far as I know, in solving questions of mutual interest without making any issue of who reports to whom.

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Ltr. to Dr. E. R. Jette dated 6 September 1946 (cont'd)

My dual position was adopted upon recommendation of Dr. Oppenheimer and approval by General Groves, and it has facilitated, to a great extent, the coordination and operations which have been carried out since my assignment here.

I regret the fact that this situation has arisen during the absence of Dr. Bradbury, and feel sure that he must have had some conversation with General Groves and Colonel Nichols during our visit in Washington last week, of which neither you nor I are aware.

Very truly yours,

L. E. Seeman
L. E. SEEMAN
Colonel, C.E.
Commanding

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