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UNCLASSIFIED

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

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

VERIFIED UNCLASSIFIED

September 6, 1946

*L. M. Redman 12/12/79*  
*Blaise C. Davis 1/14/76*

*2/19/81*  
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HISTORICAL

Col. L. E. Seeman  
P. O. Box 1663  
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Dear Colonel Seeman:

1. During the course of this week, I have received the following memoranda to Dr. N. E. Bradbury from Col. L. E. Seeman as Commanding Officer: File EIDM CO, numbers XIX-17, XIX-18, XIX-19, XIX-20.

2. In each case Dr. Bradbury is requested by the Commanding Officer to supply certain technical information, and/or to take certain action within the Technical Area.

3. Number XIX-18, paragraph 2, says in part "Instructions have been received from the Washington Headquarters of the Manhattan Project directing that the Los Alamos Laboratory take the following action", etc.

4. Number XIX-20, paragraph 2, says in part "Instructions have just been received by telephone from higher authority directing that the laboratory policy suspending . . . operations be set aside", etc.

5. I know personally that XIX-18 is a condensation of a much longer communication, all the contents of which refer to the subject of the memorandum. My verbal request for additional specific information has been given an evasive reply.

6. In the past, requests such as are covered in Item 2 either have been communicated directly to the Director of this project by the Washington Headquarters by telephone, letter, or other means, or if transmitted through the Commanding Officer, have been delivered to the Director in the form of the original letter or teletype, or by an exact copy.

7. The organization chart which is now in force shows that Military Operations reports to the Associate Director (who is also the Commanding Officer at present) in charge of the administrative divisions, who in turn reports to the Director. There is no provision whatever for the Commanding Officer to make "requests" which have the force of directives to the Director. The Director himself reports only to General Groves.

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8. The form in which the requests mentioned memoranda are made, and the method of transmitting directives from the Washington Headquarters strongly imply a change of policy with respect to the relations between the Director and the Commanding Officer. The implication is that the Director will report to and receive his instructions from the Commanding Officer even in the case of Technical Area activities and responsibilities, rather than the Commanding General, as in the past.

9. Has there been a change in basic policy for Project Y affecting the relative positions of the Director and Commanding Officer which gives the Commanding Officer the final responsibility for Technical Area activities rather than the Director?

10. To your knowledge is such a change contemplated?

11. If such a change has been directed, why has this office not been informed?

12. If no change has been made, I must insist that the transmission of requests and information concerning the Technical Area be made in full to the Director in accordance with the established operating policy.

13. As I cannot permit changes in basic policy or decrease in the authority of the Director by methods of attrition, especially in the absence of Dr. Bradbury, I must insist on clear, unequivocal answers to the questions in Items 9, 10 and 11 above, and your agreement to adhere to previous policy (cf. Item 12) insofar as Technical Area activities are concerned.

14. In the event that no reply is received by me in writing before 4:00 PM on Friday, 7 September, 1946, a letter will be sent immediately to General Groves; a rough draft of this letter is enclosed.

Sincerely,

E. R. Jette  
Acting Director

ERJ/b

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