

These were the only written instructions ever issued in connection with my responsibilities on the Manhattan Project. They were written by Major General Styer, Chief of Staff for General Somervell, in consultation with me and primarily for the benefit of the Chief of Engineers, Major General Reybold. Of the instructions contained in the memorandum, the important one was "to take complete charge of the entire DSM project" The rest was considered then and always as pure window dressing.

Before this time the project had been known as the DSM project (development of substitute materials). I had always considered this designation most objectionable, because I felt that it would automatically attract attention and curiosity and would thus cause breaches of security. It was for that reason that the designation of Manhattan Engineer District had been decided upon after a discussion held a few weeks earlier between Col. J. C. Marshall, the District Engineer at that time, and me .

L. R. G.

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SPEX

September 17, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS

SUBJECT: Release of Colonel L. R. Groves, C.E. for Special Assignment.

1. It is directed that Colonel L. R. Groves be relieved from his present assignment in the Office Chief of Engineers for special duty in connection with the DSM project. You should, therefore, make the necessary arrangements in the Construction Division of your office so that Colonel Groves may be released for full time duty on this special work. He will report to the Commanding General, Services of Supply, for necessary instructions, but will operate in close conjunction with the Construction Division of your office and other facilities of the Corps of Engineers.

2. Colonel Groves' duty will be to take complete charge of the entire DSM project as outlined to Colonel Groves this morning by General Styer.

a. He will take steps immediately to arrange for the necessary priorities.

b. Arrange for a working committee on the application of the product.

c. Arrange for the immediate procurement of the site of the TVA and the transfer of activities to that area.

d. Initiate the preparation of bills of materials needed for construction and their earmarking for use when required.

e. Draw up the plans for the organization, construction, operation and security of the project, and after approval, take the necessary steps to put it into effect.

BREHON SOMERVELL,
Lieutenant General,
Commanding.

15-58
DECLASSIFIED
DOD Dir. 5200.9, Sept. 27, 1958
RWD by GRB date 29 Apr 59

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