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WAR DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON

30 November 1945 UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE

MEMORANDUM TO GENERAL GEORGE C. MARSHALL:

This photograph has been reviewed and it has been determined that it does not contain restricted data as defined in the Atomic Energy Act of 1954. *J.R. Patton*
Chief, Declassification Branch

No information has yet been uncovered which would indicate that the Germans could not produce radioactive materials in sufficient quantities by Christmas to use them as a military weapon in the European area. If they do so they can force evacuation, for a period of at least a week, of areas of approximately two (2) square miles every four days. The areas could be an occupied city, such as London, or an important military point, such as a railroad junction. It would not be practicable to decontaminate these areas -- only time could do so. While it is extremely unlikely that the weapon will be used at all, still preparations against the possibility should not be neglected.

It would be unwise to create alarm by publicizing the possibilities but it would be wise to have permanently in England a small group of officers trained on the technical aspects of this phase of warfare where they could give prompt information in the event of any real or suspected use of this material by the enemy. The duty for these officers should be an additional rather than a primary one. Knowledge, by others, of this additional duty should be strictly limited. Such officers can receive the necessary training in a very short period under my direction.

We are continuing to study methods of detection and protection and are procuring a small number of portable detection equipments, which, although service tests have not been completed, are believed to be satisfactory.

This question has been carefully gone into by a committee of competent scientists, headed by Dr. J. B. Conant, and has been reviewed by the U. S. Military Policy Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

That not less than two nor more than four officers be selected for training on the technical aspects of radioactive warfare and that these officers be made available to me for this training for a period of duty of seven to ten days.

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MEMORANDUM TO GENERAL GEORGE C. MARSHALL

CONCURRENCE

The Military Policy Committee, Dr. Bush, Rear Admiral Purnell and Major General Styer as well as Dr. Conant concur in this paper.



L. R. GROVES,
Brigadier General, C. E.


APPROVED

By order of the Secretary of War
JOSEPH T. McNARNEY
Deputy Chief of Staff

APPROVED

By order of the Chief of Staff
G. S. SEXTON
Chief of Staff

By W. T. SEXTON
Colonel G.S.C., Secretary W.D.G.S.



By W. T. SEXTON
Colonel G.S.C., Secretary W.D.G.S.