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ADDRESS REPLY TO
CHIEF OF ENGINEERS, U. S. ARMY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS
WASHINGTON

REFER TO FILE NO. _____

16 August 1944.

MEMORANDUM TO THE CHIEF OF STAFF

1. The first serious breach of security on the atomic fission bomb, a definite violation of the censorship code, occurred last night on a national broadcast over 156 stations of the Mutual Broadcasting System in the program "Confidentially Yours" by a commentator named Arthur Hale. It was undoubtedly picked up by Axis monitors. He implied that research on atomic energy, particularly for war use, had been successfully accomplished and that actual use was imminent. He mentioned two of our contractors by name; Columbia University and the duPont Company. The latter was particularly unfortunate as it will definitely link the Hanford Engineer Works to atomic bombs. He also mentioned one of our engineering firms, The F. W. Kellogg Company and although he did confuse it with Spencer Kellogg it would have been immediately identified by anyone familiar with the American chemical industry.

2. We hope that we will be successful in our endeavors to prevent any further disclosure or publicity growing out of this matter. The War Department Bureau of Public Relations is omitting any reference to this broadcast in its daily radio digest.

3. Mr. Hale does not prepare his own scripts. They are written by Trans-Radio Press and the individual author responsible has stated a complete inability to remember anything about the source of his information. We are investigating, with a view to determining the original source and the channels through which the story developed as well as possible punitive action, if any, that can be taken.

L. R. Groves
L. R. GROVES,
Major General, C. E.

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~~TOP SECRET~~
By authority of *J.R. Jones*

16 August 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE:

Subject: Breach of Security by ARTHUR HALE.

1. Arthur Hale on the Richfield Radio Program entitled, "Confidentially Yours", between 1930 and 1945 on 15 August 1944, committed a serious breach of the voluntary Radio Censorship Code. He stated in substance that a Columbia University project, duPont Company, Kellogg Company, and Kellex Company, the latter two by misnomer, were working on atomic energy for certain war and peace uses. Descriptive hyperbole was employed particularly in regard to its war uses. A copy of the pertinent portion of the broadcast is attached.

2. This program was broadcast from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, over 156 stations of the Mutual Broadcasting System. We received the first report promptly at one of our field offices from which it was forwarded to Washington.

3. Through the whole-hearted cooperation of Mr. Byron Price and the Office of Censorship, 4 stations which were receiving transcripts of the broadcast for re-broadcast tonight will not be permitted to use the records. In addition, all reference to this broadcast will be omitted from the radio digest of news published by the Mutual Broadcasting Company for its member stations. The 4 major press services were contacted and requested to exert every effort to suppress any reference to the broadcast in the nation's daily Radio Digest. This was done.

4. Investigation indicates that the script was prepared for Hale at the Transradio Press Service of 521 5th Avenue, New York City, by a Mr. Dixon Stewart of the Transradio Press Service. Stewart claims to be unable to remember the name of the person from whom the material for this story was received, although he does remember that it was received in written form from a person in Chicago and that there was a Wilmington, Delaware angle to it. He has offered absolutely no excuse for his failure to submit such a story to the Office of Censorship prior to broadcast. Efforts have been made to determine why the manager of the broadcasting station did not inspect the script prior to its broadcast or if he had read it why he permitted it to be broadcast.

5. Attempts are presently being made to determine the source of information for the tip to Transradio Press Service. Key personnel of Columbia University are being interviewed to determine if any of them are the source of the story.

6. No punitive action against writer, speaker, or station is possible under the voluntary code. If the original source of the story can be identified as an employee of a contractor, some action can be taken in regard to the individual and possibly the contractor.

J.R.G.
L.R.G.

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TRANSCRIPT OF RADIO BROADCAST

ARTHUR HALE (MBS): Some of the details of the epic chemical research known as the Columbia University project, said to be so tremendous it could alter the destiny of the world, can now be revealed although much of it is being held secret.

Progress in the project has been such that one chemical authority says: "If Germany knew what is now known here, she could still win the war. Accomplishments of the research which have been experimenting in a new field of energy have been so literally colossal that veteran chemists, usually immune to over-enthusiasm, are staggered by the potentialities. It's now being regarded as the most historic chemical advance in modern times, certainly the most historic one of this century."

Chemical experts say that effects of the research will be so drastic that if the patent becomes widespread isolationism and a world without organization might lead to universal mutual suicide.

The precise field into which the experimentation has gone, it's now learned, is in energy of the atom. Chemical wizards are on the trail of separating the energy from the atom. Experts agree that such a part of one atom alone could create a blast which would destroy everything within one square mile. A widely-recognized chemist says: "The discovery has almost infinite possibilities of good and evil. It could probably be used for running automobiles, airplanes, and similar vehicles. Its other uses as a source of energy might be countless. The discovery may render obsolete all worriment over oil and other fuels dwindling in availability." Already this chemist says it's making the textbook chemistry of colleges and high schools seem obsolete, childish stuff.

One expert suggests that in the hands of an organized world the discovery could permanently underwrite an ultimate peace since any outlaw insurrectionist threat would be ridiculously hopeless. Some of the experts believe that as a factor in sealing the peace, the research may be more decisive than any political or economic reasons. Eminent chemists from various universities and colleges as well as industries are attached to the Columbia project. However, advances are of such dimensions that already distinct categories within leading chemical corporations have been established for the sake of utilizing to the utmost what has been achieved. E. I. du Pont de Neymour & Company, Inc., have set up a special division in this field. The firm of Spencer Kellogg and Son, Inc. has created an entirely new corporation, Kellogg's devoted to the research and production upon the basis of its findings. It's not permissible to say whether or not any of the discoveries is already being utilized in production in this country.

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