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OFFICE FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

NATIONAL DEFENSE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

OF THE

OFFICE OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

1530 P STREET NW.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Address reply:
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Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

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IRVIN STEWART, Executive Secretary

February 15, 1943

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Mr. Irvin Stewart
Office of Scientific Research and Development
1530 P Street NW
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Stewart:

I have to report to you an extremely unpleasant and serious situation with regard to Dr. Oppenheimer's new project.

When Oppenheimer was here, he told the men who were probably going to go to his project a good deal about the site and the ultimate objective of the work. He also told them to discuss the problem of going with their wives. It is not clear to me whether they were to tell their wives anything more than the location and restrictions. There were, of course, repeated warnings by him and by me of the necessity for extreme secrecy.

Last Thursday I received a call from a young woman who has no connection whatever with anyone on the project here but who felt it a matter of duty to tell me that a considerable amount of information about Oppenheimer's project was circulating among the women who live in the Prospect Apartments. The Prospect Apartments is one of the few apartment houses in Princeton, and there are several members of our project who will be going to Oppenheimer who live there. I understand that the woman who spoke to me had not received this information directly from any wives of people on this project, and I further understand that there is a woman living at the Prospect Apartments whose brother is a physicist at Berkeley and is going to Oppenheimer's new project. Whatever the source of the information, whether via Berkeley or via some wives of the men here who are going to Oppenheimer, I think an investigation should be made.



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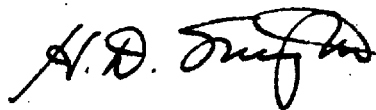
Mr: Irvin Stewart

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February 15, 1943

I mentioned this to Dr. Wensel and of course will be glad to give any information I can to anyone who is sent here to investigate. Although this does not directly concern our own project here for which I am responsible, I am nevertheless deeply distressed and feel obliged to call the matter to your attention.

Sincerely yours,



H. D. Smyth

HDS:mh

The urgency of delivery of this letter is such that it will not reach the addressee in time by the next available mail service. The originator, therefore, authorizes the transmission of this document by registered mail within the continental limits of the United States.

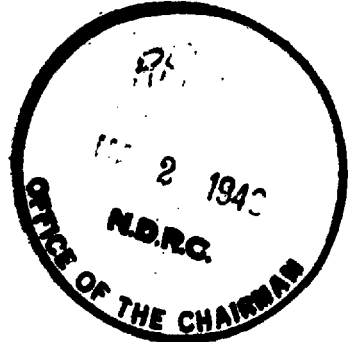
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Oppenheimer, Robert

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Refer: CI: WBR

February 23, 1943



Dr. H. D. Smyth
Palmer Physical Laboratory
Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Dr. Smyth:

Thank you very much for your letter of February 15, 1943, reporting that considerable information regarding Dr. Oppenheimer's project was being circulated around Princeton. I have reported the instance you mentioned to the Protective Security Officer of the Manhattan District, who has jurisdiction over the security of the project.

You will be advised of any further developments.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) IRVIN STUART

Irvin Stewart
Executive Secretary

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