

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. PAGE:

~~Classification Cancelled or Changed~~  
Authority of the Chief of Engineers

*R.C.*  
*R. J. Cooper*  
Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Date *6/12/45*

1. I am returning herewith your suggested radio talk and also the suggested release by the Secretary of War.
2. As to the latter, it is my feeling that many of the facts must be carefully checked. On the whole, I consider the paper an exceptionally good one. I would make some few specific suggestions of change. I consider it inadvisable to stress Fermi by name on page 1. It seems to me also that there is a repetition of the same names too frequently in the discussion of personnel of different advisory groups contained on page 4, et seq. On page 7, I believe that the names there should be included the names of several other corporations such as Allis Chalmers and Westinghouse. These companies were of decided value in the project picture.
3. I question whether on page 10 the specific information regarding the agreement between the United States and the United Kingdom should be mentioned. Every executive agreement represents a potential attack on the floor of the Congress for the evasion of the Senate ratification clause of the Constitution. On page 8, line 8, the phrase "without impairment of other vital war work" is not correct at all.
4. I question whether it is necessary to mention thorium at all in the article (page 12). I believe it to be absolutely insecure to develop too much on the Combined Development Trust as is done on page 3, et seq. It is my opinion that no mention should be made of the Belgian Agreement at all for the reason that there are certain international treaties which give equal rights to other nations in the resources of the Congo. It seems to me this would simply precipitate the first case for the new World Court, and Russia might well be the plaintiff. The same conclusion is true regarding the thorium ores and the agreements with the other nations mentioned on page 14.
5. I have one overall criticism of the article. There is too great a stress on the scientists as a whole. The job was finished because of the complete coordination of the Army, industry and the scientists. There is too little mention of the part played by the Army. I believe that industry has been given proper attention and that the scientists have been given absolutely too much attention.

~~TOP SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED  
NND 0. 11002. 00. 000  
Auth: *730039*  
By: *ERC* NARS, Date *6-5-74*

6. With reference to the suggested radio talk, I think it is an excellent job of following the President's style. The evasion of scientific discussion has been beautifully handled.

7. I have certain specific changes that I refer to in the following paragraphs.

8. In place of the last sentence, paragraph 1, page 1, I would substitute "This single five ton bomb, carried in a single airplane, loosed a blast equivalent to \_\_\_\_\_ pounds of TNT".

9. I would change sentence 2, paragraph 2, page 1 to "We are now just beginning to make this new and revolutionary increase in destructive power available to our armed forces".

10. In paragraph 4, page 1, I would change the first sentence to read "Before this war began, all scientists knew that it was. . ."

11. On page 2, paragraph 1, I would change the last sentence to read "We may be grateful to Providence and the Allied Air Forces that the Germans got the V-1's and V-2's in limited quantities and more grateful to God that they did not get the atomic bomb at all.

12. In paragraph 2 on page 2, I would substitute for "laboratories" the phrase "scientific and industrial development and achievement."

13. In paragraph 3, page 2, the sentence reading "Under that general policy the research on the atomic bomb was begun" is not a correct statement of fact. In the next sentence, I believe that in the true light of the collaboration of the American and British scientists the reference to the British may be properly excluded. On page 3, line 4, the phrase "without impairment of other vital war work" is not correct at all. Despite the impairment of other vital war work all the American activities proceeded at full speed.

14. On page 3, the sentence beginning on line 7 is incorrect. These reasons were not the basis of the decision to carry on the project in the United States. Hundreds of millions of American dollars and billions of American manpower hours had been spent on the project at that time. To do it in England would have required the removal of our plants from the United States to England--an utter impossibility.

15. On page 3, line 10, there is reference to 200,000 people. I would suggest that this sentence be changed to read "Peak construction employment numbered \_\_\_\_\_ and over \_\_\_\_\_ individuals are now engaged in operational activities."

16. On page 4, line 1, reference is made to the achievement of scientific brains in organizing, etc. The organization of this work was by the Army and American industry. If the organization depended on the

scientific personnel of the United States, it would be today very little further than it was in 1939. This might be corrected by giving tribute to the scientific brains and excluding reference to the organizing ability of the scientists. The same criticism is true of the use of the phrase "greatest achievement of organized science" on lines 12 and 13, page 4.

17. On page 6, line 8, it is stated that both groups worked under the direction of the Army Engineers. This statement is incorrect. While General Groves was and is attached to the Corps of Engineers, the work has been done entirely by a group that is separate from the Corps of Engineers. The area offices and other facilities of the Corps of Engineers were not used in any way. It would be better to make a reference to the Army alone or to the special organization known as the Manhattan Engineer District.

18. I think that the first paragraph on page 6 is too brusque and something that the President of the United States would not say. Moreover, the release from the Secretary of War must follow the radio talk immediately. There is no possibility of putting a twelve-hour period of time between the two. Otherwise, you can be sure the newspapers will feel that the censorship ban is off and they can write anything in any way they want. What we give them immediately will work better to our advantage than what they surmise. I would suggest that the paragraph include the statement that the Secretary of War is making details immediately available to the press and radio stations of the country.

19. This paragraph should be opportunity for a mention of the personal and careful supervision of the Secretary of War in this matter and perhaps the mention of the names of Generals Marshall and Groves, the former for his cooperation and aid and the latter as the operational Commanding Officer of the project. It might be mentioned here that when battles are won in the Pacific, Generals Marshall and McArthur's names are mentioned; in the European theatre, Generals Marshall and Eisenhower.

20. The same criticism is true of the last sentence in paragraph 2 on page 6, as of the first paragraph on that page. The same corrective treatment would seem to apply. The names of Drs. Oppenheimer, Lawrence, Compton and Urey should be mentioned at this point.

21. In the last paragraph on page 6, I believe that the words "of the scientists of this country or" should be stricken. The President of the United States is not bound by any policy of scientists just as he is not bound by the policy of any bar association or national association of manufacturers or publishers.

22. On page 7, line 1, I think "the two countries" should be changed to read "we".

~~TOP SECRET~~

23. I also believe that a paragraph should be inserted which pays tribute to the voluntary cooperation of the 2,000 daily newspapers, the 11,000 weekly newspapers and the \_\_\_\_\_ radio stations in the country. Many of them knew our secret and kept it a secret. Many others could have guessed it from the Censorship directive, but did not guess.

24. In the radio speech, I would emphasize, near the top, the race with the Germans. I would elaborate on this in the Secretary's statement. Both would be for the purpose of calling attention to our plight if the Germans had succeeded in developing the atomic bomb. Selling for the future, especially the Congress, also is involved.

WILLIAM A. CONSODINE,  
Lt. Colonel, C.E.

Incls:

- Suggested radio talk.
- Suggested release by S/W.

of size 1/2 to 20,000 tons of the size, and possibly as much as 100,000 tons.

- 2. Explosive Materials - Plutonium and Uranium-235
- 3. Weapon - A large, highly complicated aerial bomb
- 4. Details of the Project
- 5. Research, Production and Manufacturing Installations
- 6. Security Measures
- 7. Collaboration with Great Britain
- 8. Supplies of the Project