

FUTURE RELEASE

PLEASE NOTE DATE

WAR DEPARTMENT
Bureau of Public Relations
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FUTURE

RELEASE

FOR RELEASE IN MORNING PAPERS, SUNDAY, AUGUST 12, 1945

For Radio Commentators after
9:00 P.M., EWT, Saturday, August 11, 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR EDITORS:

The War Department authorizes the release of the report by H. D. Smyth, Chairman of the Department of Physics of Princeton University and Consultant to Manhattan District United States Corps of Engineers, entitled:

A GENERAL ACCOUNT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF METHODS
OF USING ATOMIC ENERGY FOR MILITARY PURPOSES
UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
1940 - 1945

The report is authorized for publication in Sunday morning papers of August 12 or for radio commentators after 9 P.M., EWT, August 11, 1945.

PLEASE WATCH THE RELEASE DATE CAREFULLY.

Nothing in this report discloses necessary military secrets as to the manufacture or production of the weapon. It does provide a summary of generally known scientific facts and gives an account of the history of the work, and of the role played in the development by different scientific and industrial organizations.

The best interests of the United States require the utmost cooperation by all concerned in keeping secret now and for all time in the future all scientific and technical information not given in this report or other official releases of information by the War Department.

The following addition should be made to paragraph 12.18 of the Smyth Report: "The War Department now authorizes the further statement that the bomb is detonated in combat, at such a height above the ground, as to give the maximum blast effect against structures, and to disseminate the radioactive products as a cloud. On account of the height of the explosion practically all the radioactive products are carried upward in the ascending column of hot air and dispersed harmlessly over a wide area. Even in the New Mexico test, where the height of explosion was necessarily low, only a very small fraction of the radioactivity was deposited immediately below the bomb."

END