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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY	
CLASSIFICATION REVIEW	
SINGLE REVIEW AUTHORIZED BY: <u>DOZ 5650.2B</u>	DETERMINATION (CIRCLE NUMBER(S)) 1. CLASSIFICATION RETAINED 2. CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO: 3. CONTAINS NO DOE CLASSIFIED INFO 4. COORDINATE WITH: 5. CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED 6. CLASSIFIED INFO BRACKETED 7. OTHER (SPECIFY):
REVIEWER (ADD): NAME: <u>RH Smiley</u>	
DATE: <u>21 MAY 96</u>	

APR 1 1953

Dr. John A. Wheeler  
Forrestal Research Center  
Princeton, New Jersey

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Dear Dr. Wheeler:

This letter is being directed to you to express the extreme displeasure and concern of the Commission over the manner in which you handled a highly classified document emanating from the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy.

The Atomic Energy Commission has been appreciative of the significant contributions which you have made to the Atomic Energy program. It must be obvious to you, however, that the careless handling of significant data may well undo the excellent work you and your colleagues have accomplished, resulting in the negation of any scientific advantages we presently hold over inimical interests. The assessment of any injury to our program as the result of the loss of the document in question is not possible at this time.

We know that representatives of the AEC have repeatedly discussed security policies and procedures with you. The carelessness or disregard of security responsibilities such as occurred in this instance cannot and will not be tolerated on the part of anyone connected with the program.

In addition, the manner in which the loss and nature of the document in question came to our attention is most disturbing. Despite the fact that the document was one originated and sent to you by the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, your position in the atomic energy program and knowledge of the importance of the contents of the document to the AEC program should have dictated at least concurrent notification to us at the time the loss and possible compromise was reported to other agencies of the Government. The interest of the Commission in safeguarding atomic energy information cannot be adequately discharged when, as in this instance, we are not even aware of the fact that sensitive information has been compromised until notified by another agency several days later.

This material contains information affecting the

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Dr. John A. Wheeler.

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The Commission expects that, in the future, your utmost care and good judgment will be exercised to insure that no further opportunities for possible compromise of classified information occur.

Sincerely yours,

Signed GORDON DEAN

Gordon Dean  
Chairman

I am replying to your letter of April 9, 1953, wherein you requested that the Commission, through its Chairman, be asked to take any action which might be necessary to effect the immediate implementation of the transfer of certain responsibilities in connection with the assembly type atomic weapons from the Atomic Energy Commission to the Department of Defense.

I have enclosed herewith a copy of a letter to Mr. [Name] of the Department of Defense, dated April 10, 1953, in which the Commission has agreed to the transfer of the responsibilities.

Sincerely yours,

Gordon Dean  
Chairman

Enclosure

By [Name] letter from to [Name]  
dated [Date]

6/11/53