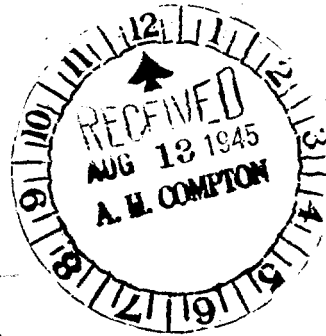


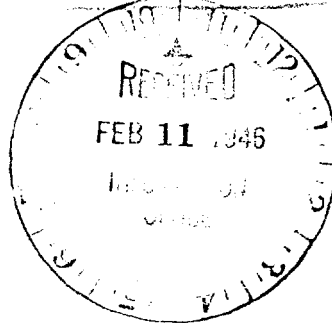
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1 - 2. Col.
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4. M. D.
5. R. S. L.

715871



August 9, 1945



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Lt. Col. H. L. Friedel,
U. S. Engineer Corps,
Manhattan District,
P. O. Box E,
Oak Ridge, Tenn.

Dear Col. Friedel:

As you and many others are aware, a great many of the people who have been working on this project have done so with mixed feelings. They realized that an atomic bomb and the use of atomic power was close at hand and that if we did not do it, our very existence was imperiled. Yet, they feel that the use of the atomic bomb, in going beyond the powers of imagination in destructive power, would lead to charges against us such as the Japanese have already leveled.

One of the questions is, were the Japanese warned that radiation hazards would remain after the explosion hazard had passed away? I have been asked to find out if possible if any warning on this subject was given to the Japanese. If some Red Cross workers, say of Swiss nationality, were to enter a "bombed" area a few hours after the bombing and were to die of the effects of radiations of which they had no warning and no sensation, we might be considered guilty of unnecessary destruction of life. Personally, I do not see that there is any difference between one method of killing and another, and I do not see that it is any more inhuman to let the Japanese walk into an area of radiation hazard than it is to burn them to death or to set booby-traps. I have been asked to make this inquiry to you and would appreciate an honest endeavor on your part to obtain an answer.

I could hardly believe my eyes when I saw a news release said to be quoting Oppenheimer, and giving the impression that there is no radioactive hazard. Apparently all things are relative.

Yours sincerely,

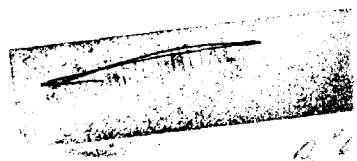
Robert S. Stone
Robert S. Stone, M. D.

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For The Atomic Energy Commission
Robert S. Stone
Chief, Declassification Branch



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