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MAY 18 1954 101386

DMA POSITION REGARDING MAIL CENSORSHIP FOR CASTLE

SYMBOL: MAR:NDG

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 Secs. 1.1(c) and 1.1(d) of the regulation
 of which are prohibited by law.

Facts Bearing on the Problem:

During IVY numerous security violations occurred when Task Force personnel wrote and dispatched to the United States personal letters containing classified information. The resulting publicity ran counter to the policy established by the Psychological Strategy Board and created much speculation in the press. As a result of these security violations, it has been suggested that censorship should be imposed during CASTLE. We have learned informally that the Division of Security may undertake in a Commission paper to establish an AEC position in this matter.

General Clarkson has recommended to the Joint Chiefs of Staff that censorship not be imposed, but that security instruction be improved and public releases be increased.

To this date mail censorship has not been applied in the Korean combat zone.

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Discussion:

If compulsory censorship of personal mail were imposed under existing legislation, it could be applied only to military personnel. Since mail censorship that excluded civilian personnel would be ineffective, new legislation would have to be enacted if mail censorship were to be worthwhile. If over-all censorship were applied, it would require that the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory personnel, who have access to "Restricted Data" at all times, be required to submit to censorship only when at the Pacific Proving Grounds. Such a condition would adversely affect their morale. In addition, contractor personnel might rebel at the idea of censorship and thereby create a problem in labor recruitment. There is also the feeling that the organization required for censoring mail would increase personnel requirements and overload existing facilities which will be overtaxed even without these extra people.

CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED
 AUTHORITY: DOE-DPC
 BY E.G. BOGEE DATE 3/23/88
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Since all known violations in letter writing occurred among Naval personnel, it has been concluded by those most closely associated with the problem that these personnel may not have been adequately instructed as to what information they could or could not divulge. This could be remedied by improving the security instruction at CASTLE.

Whether or not mail censorship is applied, the news value of security information which might be released through personal letters can be considerably reduced and rendered unseasonal through properly timed and worded joint press releases by the AEC-DOD.

Conclusions:

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It is concluded:

- (1) that mail censorship for all personnel cannot feasibly be enforced during the CASTLE Operation;
- (2) that imposing mail censorship on only one group of personnel would be discriminatory and might cause leaks to be attributed erroneously to the group whose letters were not censored;
- (3) that an improved security education program should be undertaken to instruct all personnel participating in CASTLE;
- (4) that a news release should be made a reasonable time prior to the start of CASTLE, indicating in general terms that a test will be held, a short statement released after each shot, and another general statement made upon completion of the test.

All mail censored

Included in

Review made

*Only remaining question
of when to start
good one - why not start before, after, but broader than. Dry over*

Recommendations:

That the conclusions above be accepted as the DMA position on censorship to be used in assisting the Division of Security in preparing a staff paper for formal Commission consideration.

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