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NO. [REDACTED]

ADCS-4038

November 6, 1953

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Dr. James G. Beckerley
Director, Office of Classification
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D. C.

RG 326 US ATOMIC ENERGY
COMMISSION

Location LANL

Collection Records Center R-9 D-158

Folder 635 CASTLE

9-1-53 - 12-30-53

Dear Jim:

We have seen a United Press story and have heard a number of radio broadcasts which rather accurately describe the activities in the Pacific next spring. We at first thought that the long awaited release had been made but inasmuch as we have not heard from you we presume that there has been another leak in Washington.

I am certain you can imagine the difficulty encountered here in attempting to prevent unclassified discussions of this information. Members of the Weapon Test Organization receive considerable questioning by their wives and other members of their families about an item so intimately connected with their personal, as well as professional, life. Can anyone possibly conceive that the existence of a test program in the Pacific next spring is information affecting the national defense and security at this stage of developments?

There is also considerable interest here as to how highly classified information on the nature of the tests can be released to the press without prosecution of the individual who makes the statement. Surely the Government that is able to crack spy cases can identify the individuals giving the classified information to the press. We have FBI agents in the Laboratory investigating possible prosecution of an individual under the Internal Security Act because he has apparently misplaced one Confidential item that is not revealing in itself at the same time that Secret Restricted Data is being compromised to the benefit of a foreign government without any prosecutions.

Next spring, a sailor will write home what he read in the paper and be charged with a security violation.

At present, we are making our job more difficult for ourselves while at the same time releasing program information to the benefit

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James G. Beckerley

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of potential enemies. Something is seriously wrong. Judging by recent developments, a mistake in Washington is a change in policy while a mistake in the field is criminal negligence.

Bitterly,
Original Signed by
RALPH CARLISLE SMITH
Ralph Carlisle Smith

CC: Brig. Gen. K. E. Fields
Carroll L. Tyler
✓N. E. Bradbury
Capt. John A. Waters, Jr.

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