

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION



*National Archives and Records Service*  
Washington, D.C. 20408

DATE: August 13, 1979

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: NNMM79-4321-ER

SUBJECT: Reply to inquiry

Dr. Gertrude Weiss Szilard  
8038 El Paseo Grande  
La Jolla, CA 92037

Dear Doctor Szilard:

You will find an answer to your inquiry in the statement(s) checked below.

1. ☐ The enclosed information will help answer your recent inquiry.
2. ☐ The material you ordered ☐ is enclosed ☐ will be mailed in about \_\_\_\_\_ week(s).
3. ☐ Your order costs \$ \_\_\_\_\_.
4. ☐ Your refund of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ is enclosed ☐ will be sent by Treasury check in a few weeks.
5. ☒ Enclosed are photocopies of documents selected during your recent visit to this office.

Sincerely,

EDWARD J. REESE  
Modern Military Branch  
Military Archives Division

Enclosures



Access Restricted — all marked c slips

2 May 1944 — Lenson

12 Jan 1946 — Transm. of testimony

12 July 1945 — Chewell → Jones

14 Aug 1943

" " "

24 June 1943 Memo for the Office in Charge

" " " Archival "

What is MUC LS.70



## INFORMATION FOR RESEARCHERS

Research consultants are available in Room 201 to acquaint you with our procedures and facilities. They will arrange interviews for you with specialists in the various records that relate to your research; request additional records for you as you need them; discuss your problems with you and explore possible solutions. Please call on them at any time either in person or by phone.

Initial Request for Records. After you have "signed in" with the guard at the entrance to the Central Research Room (Room 203), please identify yourself to the archives technician at the desk. When your records come in, he will get them to you promptly. Unless you have been told that it will take considerable time to get the records ready for you, do not wait more than 30 minutes without inquiring at the desk about your records, or call one of the consultants in Room 201.

Protection of Records. (For complete research-room rules, see the Regulations pamphlet furnished with your researcher identification card.)

a. If you are using loose unbound records in boxes or envelopes, please keep them in order. Use the records from only one box or envelope at a time and put them back in the same order and facing the same way as they were when you received them.

b. Leave green colored "Reference Service Slip" on the same box, volume, or packet of records where you found it. This is essential to our refiling the records rapidly and correctly.

c. Please do not go away from your desk leaving loose paper records out of their containers.

d. When you have finished using the records, please inform the archives technician at the desk in order that the records may be refiled and thus be available to other searchers.

e. Only pencil, ball-point pen, or felt-tip pen are permitted. Note-taking should be done to one side of the document--never place a sheet of paper on the document for note-taking.

f. Approved cameras, tape recorders, and photocopiers may be used, however a property pass for this equipment must be obtained from the archives technician at the desk.

### Reserving Records.

a. If you wish to use the same records on the following day, ask the archives technician at the desk to put a "hold" on them. Failure to do so will result in return of the records to the stack area, and you will have to reorder the records if you wish to use them again. If you don't expect to be in again for a few days but want the records held, please give the archives technician the approximate date so the records can be held through that period. Generally, because of the reference activity in the records, we prefer not to hold records for more than a week. If

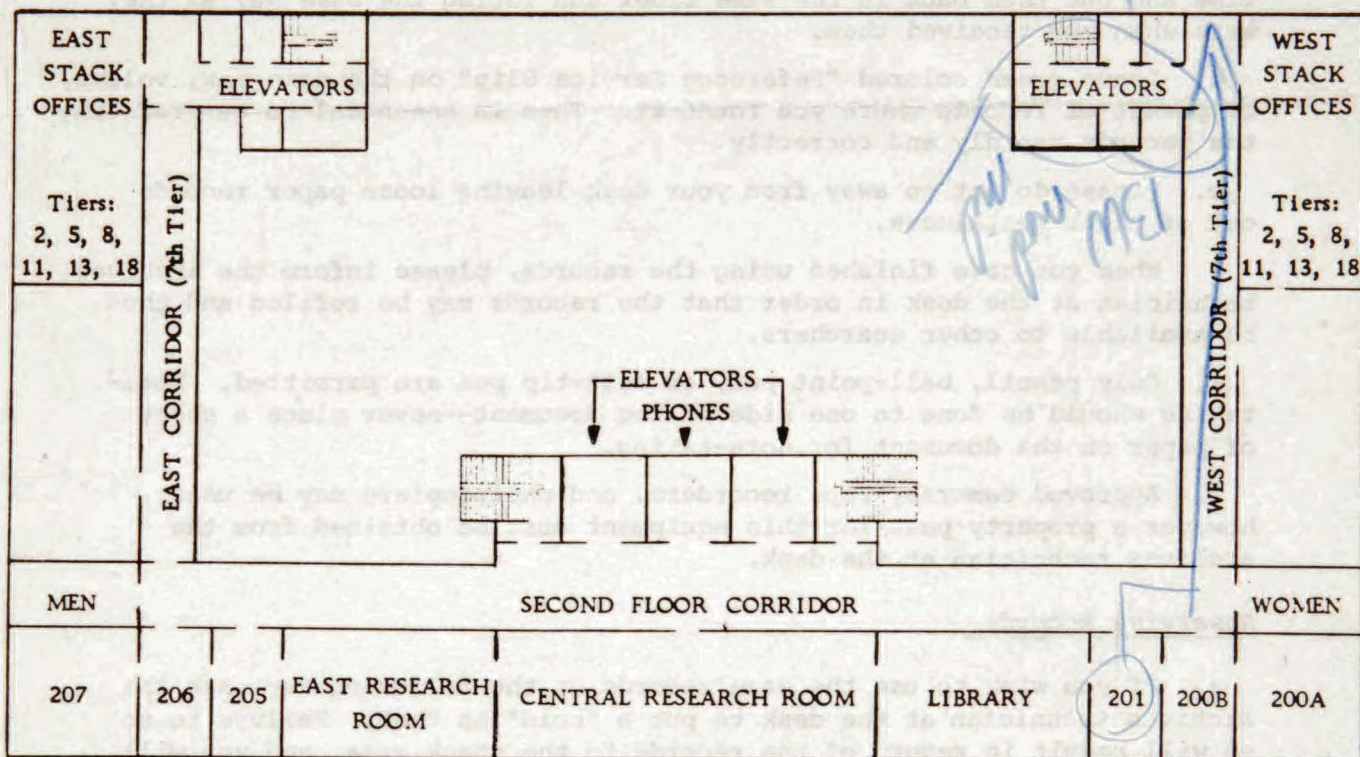


you need an exception to this rule, please discuss it with one of the research consultants or the archivist who brought you the records.

b. To help ensure your getting the records you want for evening and weekend work, make your request by 3 p.m. (and no later than 4 p.m.). To telephone about advance requests for records, call the research consultants on 963-6411 (Government code 13, ext 36411). If you wish to use additional records from the same group of records you have been using, and have the telephone number of the archivist who has been helping you, please call him first and if he is not available, then the consultant.

c. When, during the evening or on Saturday, you leave a request for additional records, please indicate the date and the time (morning or after 5:15) you will be in to use them.

Reproductions. Reproductions can be made from the records you are using. The research consultants will be glad to discuss the types of reproductions that would best fit your needs and see that the orders are taken.



The Microfilm Research Room is in Room 400, 4th Floor.

CALLING ON (Name of employee)	UNIT	ROOM NUMBER





General Services Administration      National Archives  
and  
Records Service Washington, DC 20408

Date      May 7, 1979  
Reply to      NNMM79-3346-EJR  
Attn of

Subject:

To      Dr. Gertrude Weiss Szilard  
8038 El Paseo Grande  
La Jolla, CA 92037

Dear Doctor Szilard:

We are holding 87 pages of photocopies selected from the records of the Manhattan Engineer District during your recent visit to this office.

The reproductions can be furnished for \$13.05.

Remittance should be made payable to the National Archives Trust Fund (NNMM) and forwarded to the Cashier, National Archives and Records Service, 8th and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20408. Please return the enclosed copy of this letter when placing your order.

Sincerely,

*Edward J. Reese*

EDWARD J. REESE  
Modern Military Branch  
Military Archives Division

Enclosures

#1669



ADDRESS REPLY TO  
CHIEF OF ENGINEERS, U. S. ARMY  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS  
WASHINGTON

REFER TO FILE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

SECRET

October 28, 1942.

The Honorable,  
The Attorney General.

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

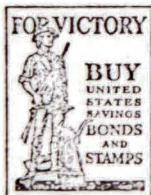
*United States will be authorized*  
The ~~War Department~~ *has* been forced to  
dispense with the services of Leo Szilard of Chicago,  
15 who ~~was~~ working on one of the most secret War De-  
partment projects.

It is considered essential to the prosecu-  
tion of the war that Mr. Szilard, who is an enemy  
alien, be interned for the duration of the war.

It is requested that an order of internment  
be issued against Mr. Szilard and that he be appre-  
hended and turned over to representatives of this  
department for internment.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary of War.



SECRET



# Metallurgical Laboratory

P.O. BOX 5207  
CHICAGO 80, ILLINOIS

BUTTERFIELD 4300

May 3, 1946

To: Colonel A. H. Frye, Jr.  
From: Farrington Daniels  
Re: Certificate of Appreciation for Dr. Leo Szilard

Name: Dr. Leo Szilard

Address: Quadrangle Club, University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.

Place of Present Employment: Metallurgical Laboratory, Chicago, Illinois

Period of service to War Department: April 1, 1942 to present

## Character of Service:

Dr. Szilard was one of the first to have the idea of the nuclear-reacting pile. He did experimental work on piles before joining the group of pioneers at Chicago who built the first successful operating pile on December 2, 1942. He was largely responsible for getting the Government support for the development of atomic energy and it was due largely to his vision and initiative that the Plutonium Project obtained its original start. He has filed several important patent applications for the Government.

More recently Dr. Szilard has pioneered in the planning of new types of piles and has given much attention to the political and social implications of atomic energy.

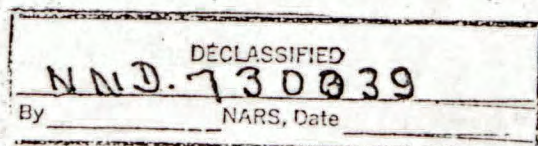
## Summary of services performed for inclusion in the Certificate:

Dr. Szilard was truly a pioneer in the field of atomic energy; has contributed much to the design of piles, and has given ~~serious~~ <sup>much</sup> thought and attention to the political and social implications of the future uses of atomic energy.

*Farrington Daniels*

Farrington Daniels, Director  
Metallurgical Laboratory

FD:db





ARMY SERVICE FORCES  
UNITED STATES ENGINEER OFFICE  
MANHATTAN DISTRICT  
OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE

IN REPLY  
REFER TO

EIDMP-4

27 May 1946

Subject: Recommendation for Military Decoration.

To: The District Engineer, U.S. Engineer Office, Manhattan District,  
Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

1. On 23 May 1946, the Decorations Board appointed by letter order of the District Engineer, 25 September 1945, subject: "Recommendations for Military Decorations", as amended by paragraph 16, Special Orders 51, Manhattan District, 13 March 1946, met at the District Office to consider the recommendation set forth below. The following Board members were present:

Colonel Staunton L. Brown	0-19356	CE
Lt. Col. James E. Travis	0-257604	CE
Major Harold A. Fidler	0-299655	CE
Major Henry E. Thurston	0-913970	CE

Lt. Col. Charles Vanden Bulck, 0-499878, CE, was absent.

2. The recommendation was reviewed carefully in strict conformity with all governing regulations.

3. The Board recommends that a Certificate of Appreciation for civilian war service be awarded to Dr. Leo Szilard under the provisions of Orders I of the Secretary of War dated 7 September 1945.

For the President of the Board:

1 Incl.:  
Recommendation for Dr. Szilard  
dated 3 May 46.

*Theodore S. Johnson*  
THEODORE S. JOHNSON,  
Captain, A.G.D.,  
Recorder.

*General Groves:*

*In consideration of certain facts unknown to  
the Board I recommend that*

DECLASSIFIED	
NND-730039	
By	NARS, Date



**SECRET**

THIS DOCUMENT CONSISTS OF 1 PAGES  
COPY NO 1 OF 3 SERIES A

Subject: Recommendation for Military Decoration (Dr. Leo Szilard)

EIDM-WL-26

1st Ind.

Manhattan Project, P. O. Box 2610, Washington, D. C., 8 July 1946.  
To: The District Engineer, U. S. Engineer Office, P. O. Box E,  
Oak Ridge, Tennessee. (Attention: Col. E. E. Kirkpatrick, in person).

1. Reference is made to the recommendation of 27 May 1946 to the effect that a Certificate of Appreciation for Civilian War Service be awarded to Dr. Leo Szilard. There are certain facts with which the Board was not familiar and which were unknown to Dr. Daniels that prevent the approval of the Board's recommendation. Among these facts were the constant difficulty that the War Department had in attempting to secure the carrying out by Dr. Szilard of his patent attorney agreements with the United States, and also his failure to devote his full energies to the work that he was assigned to do. It was quite evident that he showed a lack of support, even approaching disloyalty, to his superiors, particularly with respect to Dr. Compton, Director of the Metallurgical Laboratory.

2. This disapproval will be kept secret, but Dr. Daniels will be informed verbally by General Nichols.

*L. R. Groves*

L. R. GROVES  
Major General, USA

1 Incl.:  
n/c

*EXAM 2 EXAM*  
*safe*

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NND-730039	
By	NARS, Date

**SECRET**



Metallurgical Laboratory

October 30, 1942

Mr. Leo Szilard

A. H. Compton

Project Leader

According to instructions received yesterday, this office is requested to permit travel of those who are classified as "enemy aliens" only upon authorization received from the army office to which responsibility for the work has been delegated. I phoned General Groves in an attempt to clarify the matter, but without satisfactory results. In particular I told him that I had approved your taking a brief vacation at the end of this week. He asked that you remain in Chicago until he can discuss the matter with me as he comes through Chicago on Monday, November 2, en route to California.

In the meantime I have no alternative but to ask you to remain in Chicago through Monday.

I hope you may find it possible, however, to take a vacation, starting immediately if you wish, in the Chicago area, subject only to the condition that you keep Mrs. Tracy informed as to where you may be reached.

A.H.C.

KT

cc: General Groves

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(Szilard, Leo)



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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

EX-100  
E.O. 12812, Dec. 11  
OSD letter 3 May 72  
By EDM, NARS Date 6/1/73

~~SECRET~~

April 5, 1940

My dear Dr. Sachs:

I am grateful for your letter of March fifteenth enclosing the information from Dr. Einstein regarding the recent development in Uranium research. I have asked my Secretary, General Watson, to arrange another meeting in Washington at a time convenient for you and Dr. Einstein. I think Dr. Briggs should be included, and special representatives from the Army and Navy.

I am of the opinion that this is the most practical method of continuing this research, and I shall always be interested to hear the results.

Very sincerely yours,

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

~~SECRET~~

Dr. Alexander Sachs,  
One South William Street,  
New York, N. Y.

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By	NARS, Date



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420 West 116th Street  
New York City  
June 7, 1940

Dr. G. Breit  
Department of Physics  
The University of Wisconsin  
Madison, Wisconsin

**SECRET**

Dear Breit:

Many thanks for your letter. I am enclosing a copy of Turner's first letter to me to which I replied that if he would be willing to have his paper delayed I would be glad to forward his manuscript to the appropriate authorities. I also enclose a copy of Turner's second letter of which you have apparently received a copy. Subsequently, I saw Turner. He expressed his willingness to have his paper delayed and assuming that the paper has already passed out of the hands of Tate, he proposed to advise the New York office of the American Institute of Physics (Miss Mitchell) accordingly. Meanwhile, I was supposed to forward his paper to the Government departments interested and ask them to notify Turner officially concerning their wishes in this matter. I take it that since, in the meantime, you have arranged with Tate to receive all papers on uranium, this somewhat clumsy procedure upon which Turner and I agreed need not take place and that, accordingly, I need not take any further steps in the matter of Turner's paper except communicating with you about it.

Clearly, for you to be in a position to fulfill your function, it is necessary that you should be fully informed of the work of Fermi and myself as well as other related work. It would be unsatisfactory for you to have Fermi's and my personal opinions without being informed of our reasons. This makes it necessary that we should be free to give you information concerning our work.

**SECRET**



This and other considerations make it advisable that a small group of scientists should receive full information on the work which is being carried out and that you should be a member of this group.

I have been lately taking a strong stand in favor of such a solution, and I understand that the 13th of June may be fixed as the time and Washington, D. C. as the place for a meeting. No doubt, you will receive official notice within the next few days from the proper authorities. It would be very useful if you could come to New York a day or two earlier so that we may have a number of informal discussions, in connection with the various complicated questions which will necessarily arise. If possible, thought should precede action.

I take it that as far as preventing publication goes you are already handling the situation efficiently, and I have communicated your suggestion, that the Journal of Chemical Physics and the American Chemical Society should fall in line, to Urey. I told him that you have already asked for such control through official channels.

**SECRET**

Yours sincerely,

(Leo Szilard)

DECLASSIFIED	
NND 730039	
By	NARS, Date



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420 West 116th Street  
New York City  
June 24th, 1940

Professor Louis A. Turner  
Palmer Physics Laboratory  
Princeton University  
Princeton, N. J.

**SECRET**

Dear Turner:

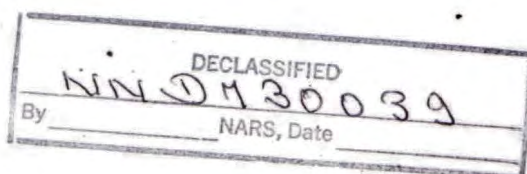
I understand that you have sent to Tate a copy of your last letter which was addressed to me and that, in consequence of that, some official action has been taken about delaying your paper. I take it therefore that I need not do anything about the matter myself.

I wish to draw your attention to the last issue of Physical Review in which McMillan and Abelson show that element 94 is produced from uranium by thermal neutrons. My guess is that they will try to see whether this element shows fission with thermal neutrons, but I do not know this for certain. Since this is perhaps one of the most important questions to be decided by a single experiment, and since it is urgently necessary to know the answer to it, I feel that the matter ought to be taken up officially or unofficially with Lawrence. Before doing anything about it, however, I wanted to ask you if you perhaps would prefer to write to Lawrence yourself and perhaps offer to go out to Berkeley yourself during this summer and collaborate in such an experiment.

Would you be kind enough to let me know whether you intend to write to Lawrence yourself?

With best wishes, yours sincerely, **SECRET**

(Leo Szilard)





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COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Department of Chemistry

**SECRET**

June 7, 1940

Dr. Leo Szilard  
Pupin Laboratories

Dear Dr. Szilard:

At the suggestion of Admiral Bowman, and with the approval and suggestions of Dr. Briggs, I have been organizing a committee to be called the "Advisory Committee on Nuclear Research." This is to be an advisory committee to the President's Committee on Uranium, which consists of Drs. Briggs, Pegram, Sachs and Einstein. The committee as suggested at present has been chosen from among easterners in order to decrease the expense of meetings and to permit more frequent conferences. It is proposed that the committee shall consist of the following:

H. C. Urey, Chairman  
M. A. Tuve  
G. Breit  
G. B. Pegram  
E. Fermi  
L. Szilard  
E. P. Wigner  
E. Teller

In the second place, another advisory committee on the separation of uranium isotopes has been proposed, to consist of the following men:

H. C. Urey, Chairman  
J. W. Beams  
R. Gunn  
E. Fermi  
G. B. Kistiakowsky

My colleagues here have been responsible for working me into the position of chairman of both committees. I do not know that I am the best man, but at least I am near to the center of work in this field and have the virtue of being an American citizen, which is probably advisable in this case.

We should like to have you serve on the first committee, for we believe that your advice on problems dealing with uranium fission would be valuable. It is proposed that the first committee shall have its first

**SECRET**

DECLASSIFIED  
NNJ 730039  
By \_\_\_\_\_ NARS, Date \_\_\_\_\_



Dr. Leo Szilard

2

June 7, 1940

**SECRET**

meeting next Thursday, the 13th, in Washington, at the Bureau of Standards at 9 A. M., and I hope very much that you will be there and be prepared to discuss these problems.

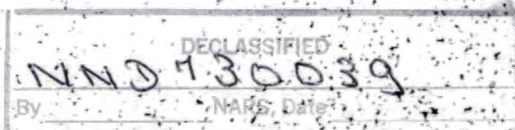
We should like to keep the existence of these committees a relatively little publicized matter for one of our objectives is to prevent the dissemination of too much discussion of points which might have military value and if the committees are not known to exist there will be less inquiry about them.

Hoping to see you in Washington.

Sincerely yours,

(signed) Harold C. Urey

**SECRET**





SECRET

COPY

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Record Group No. 77

Chief of Engineers MED

201

L Szilard

Documents Relating to Period, March 1939

To July 1940

(signed) Harold G. Urey

SECRET

RECEIVED



# Signal Corps, United States Army

War Department Message Center,  
Room 3441, Munitions Building,  
Washington, D. C.

Received at

WE49 22

UG CHICAGO ILL OCT 28 1942 425P

GENERAL L R GROVES

ROOM 5120 NEW WAR DEPT BLDG 21 & VIRGINIA

SZILARD SITUATION ~~SXXX~~ STABILIZED WITH HIM REMAINING CHICAGO  
OUT OF CONTACT WITH ENGINEERS. SUGGEST YOU NOT ACT WITHOUT  
FURTHER CONSULTATION CONANT AND MYSELF

ARTHUR COMPTON.

614P.

201 (Sgts. 18, 19, 20)

DECLASSIFIED  
NND-730039  
By NARS Date



# Signal Corps, United States Army

Received at

War Department Message Center,  
Room 3441, Munitions Building,  
Washington, D. C.

WE49 22

UG CHICAGO ILL OCT 28 1942 425P

GENERAL L R GROVES

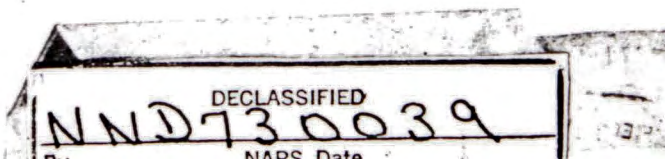
ROOM 5120 NEW WAR DEPT BLDG 21 & VIRGINIA

SZILARD SITUATION ~~XXXX~~ STABILIZED WITH HIM REMAINING CHICAGO  
OUT OF CONTACT WITH ENGINEERS. SUGGEST YOU NOT ACT WITHOUT  
FURTHER CONSULTATION CONANT AND MYSELF

ARTHUR COMPTON.

614P.

201 (Szilard, Leo)





# Signal Corps, United States Army

Received at

War Department Message Center,  
Room 3441, Munitions Building,  
Washington, D. C.

WC71 35 DL

UG CHICAGO ILL OCT 26 1942 1153A

GENERAL L R GROVES

ROOM 5120 NEW WAR DEPT BLDG 21ST & VIRGINIA WASHDC  
HAVE GIVEN SZILARD TILL WEDNESDAY TO REMOVE BASE OF  
OPERATIONS TO NEWYORK. ACTION BASED ON EFFICIENT OPERATION  
OF ORGANIZATION NOT ON RELIABILITY. ANTICIPATE PROBABLE  
RESIGNATION. SUGGEST ARMY FOLLOW HIS MOTIONS BUT NO  
DRASTIC ACTION NOW

ARTHUR H COMPTON.

259P.

SZILARD.

201 (Szilard, Leo)

72



# Metallurgical Laboratory

October 30, 1942

Mr. Leo Szilard

A. H. Compton

Project Leader

According to instructions received yesterday, this office is requested to permit travel of those who are classified as "enemy aliens" only upon authorization received from the army office to which responsibility for the work has been delegated. I phoned General Groves in an attempt to clarify the matter, but without satisfactory results. In particular I told him that I had approved your taking a brief vacation at the end of this week. He asked that you remain in Chicago until he can discuss the matter with me as he comes through Chicago on Monday, November 2, en route to California.

In the meantime I have no alternative but to ask you to remain in Chicago through Monday.

I hope you may find it possible, however, to take a vacation, starting immediately if you wish, in the Chicago area, subject only to the condition that you keep Mrs. Tracy informed as to where you may be reached.

A. H. C.

KT

cc: General Groves

201 (Szilard, Leo)





SECRET



WAR DEPARTMENT

P. O. Box 2610  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

THIS DOCUMENT CONSISTS OF 1 PAGE(S)  
NO 3 OF 3 COPIES, SERIES A

29 June 1945

Dr. A.H. Compton  
Metallurgical Laboratory,  
University of Chicago  
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Dr. Compton:

I understand that at frequently recurring intervals Dr. Szilard is absent from his assigned place of work at the Metallurgical Laboratory in Chicago and further that he travels extensively between Chicago, New York and Washington, D. C.

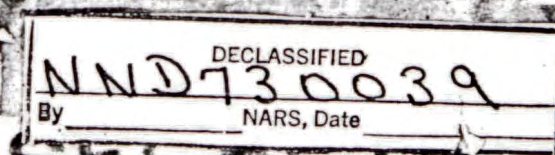
Information is requested with respect to his travel as to (a) whether he was on leave or duty status; (b) if he received pay for such absences; (c) what travelling expenses were paid by the United States; (d) what government business was transacted and (e) were you informed of his trips in advance.

I would appreciate it if you would make a complete report to me of what time Dr. Szilard has spent on the project in the last six months. I would also like to know what positive contribution, if any, to the project he has made since 1 July 1943. These inquiries must not of course be discussed with Dr. Szilard either directly or indirectly.

Sincerely yours,

L. R. GROVES  
Major General, USA

- 1- addressee
- 2- Col. Nichols
- 3- File



SECRET

2011 (Szilard, Groves)



CONFIDENTIAL

P. O. BOX 1663  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

17 July 1945

*201- E. County*

Major General L. R. Groves,  
P. O. Box 2610,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear General Groves:

The inclosed note is a further incident in a  
development which I know you have watched with in-  
terest.

Sincerely yours,

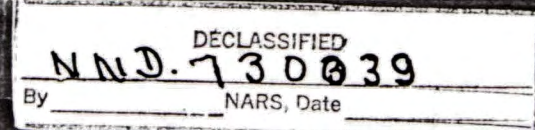
*J R Oppenheimer*

J. R. Oppenheimer

atw

Incl: ltr dtd 7/13/45

*201 (Spiland, 100)*



CONFIDENTIAL

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# RESTRICTED

July 13, 1945

AIR MAIL -- SPECIAL DELIVERY

Dr. Leo Szilard  
P. O. Box 5207  
Chicago 80, Illinois

Dear Szilard:

I have just received your letter of July 10th.

By now, you will have seen Lapp and will know of our discussion with O.

He preferred to have the document go through other channels and both Lapp and I felt that under the circumstances we should follow his recommendation.

He also believed that, since an opportunity has been given to people here to express, through him, their opinions on the matters concerned, the proposed method was somewhat redundant and probably not very satisfactory.

Because of his very frank and non-peremptory treatment of the situation, I should like to abide by his suggestions.

I have transmitted your letter of July 10th to him. I trust you understand the somewhat complicated situation.

I was pleased to hear you may be staying on in Chicago and I hope to see you soon.

Sincerely yours,

E. Creutz

mr

DECLASSIFIED  
NNJ. 730039  
By \_\_\_\_\_ NARS, Date \_\_\_\_\_

RESTRICTED



NR481

FROM STOWERS USEO CHICAGO ILL DEC 45282041Z  
TO THE WASH LIAISON OFC WASH D C

TO BE DELIVERED TO COL K D NICHOLS UPON ARRIVAL. LEO STILL ON  
L.W.O.P. IS IN CHICAGO BUT NOT ACTIVE ON M. L. DUTIES AND HAS  
REQUESTED HIS NAME NOT BE RETURNED TO PAYROLL AT PRESENT. REF  
EIDM CGD-4-480

2042Z

*missiles*

END HP

END CB

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DECLASSIFIED	
NND-730039	
By	NARS, Date



ACCESS RESTRICTED

The item identified below has been withdrawn from this file:

12p

File Designation 201 521 CARD

Date 27 June '43

~~From~~ Memo For The Archivist

~~To~~ IN CHARGE

In the review of this file this item was removed because access to it is restricted. Restrictions on records in the National Archives are stated in general and specific record group restriction statements which are available for examination. The item identified above has been withdrawn because it contains:

☒ Security-Classified Information

☐ Otherwise Restricted Information

Army / Infell Some 5/25/73  
Authority Date



SECRET

HEADQUARTERS SIXTH SERVICE COMMAND  
SERVICES OF SUPPLY

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, INTELLIGENCE DIVISION  
CIVIC OPERA BUILDING  
CHICAGO ILLINOIS

TOJ/ewl

February 22, 1943

IN REPLY REFER TO:

SPKCM 201 - Szilard, Leo  
(VI/Z-479-2) (50-687)

SECRET

By authority  
C G 6th S. C.

FEB 22 1943

Date

Initial

SUBJECT: Dr. Leo Szilard  
Quadrangle Club  
Chicago, Illinois

TO: Major John Lansdale, Jr.  
Room 2E-655  
Pentagon Building  
Arlington, Virginia

1. Reference is made to letter from this office, dated December 24, 1942, same Subject and file number, and particularly the 2nd Indorsement thereon, dated January 26, 1943, regarding interview with Mr. A. E. Wetmore, Inspector in Charge, U. S. Post Office, Chicago, Illinois, concerning the apparent carelessness of a mail carrier who permitted written instructions of his supervisor to be delivered with Mr. Fermi's mail.

2. On March 20, 1943, the undersigned Officer again interviewed Mr. Wetmore. Mr. Wetmore had requested this interview in a desire to acquaint this Officer with the main facts of the investigation made by the Post Office of the two cases in which Subjects under investigation by Military Intelligence had been made aware that their mail was being watched. Wetmore stated that the Jackson Park Post Office, at which the negligence occurred in this case, had been given proper instructions in the placing of mail covers, which should prevent any occurrence of this kind in the future. This particular incident occurred at a time when a substitute carrier was on duty. In the other case which had been brought to Wetmore's attention, he said that the Post Office in question had been issued similar instructions, and also that one carrier had been penalized.

3. It now appearing that this incident was a result of negligence, only, no further investigation of it is contemplated.

For the Director, Intelligence Division:

DECLASSIFIED  
NND-730039  
BY NARS DATE

48 Jones  
T. O. JONES  
1st Lt. M. I.  
Assistant Director



SECRET

ADDRESS REPLY TO  
CHIEF OF ENGINEERS, U. S. ARMY  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS  
WASHINGTON

REFER TO FILE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

June 12, 1943.

SUBJECT: Background Information concerning certain Radiation  
Laboratories and Los Alamos employees.

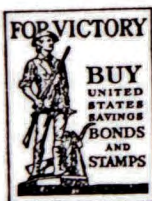
TO: District Engineer  
Manhattan District  
P. O. Box 42, Station F  
New York, N. Y.

Attention: Captain Calvert

1. Reference your letter of June 9, 1943, MI-1a,  
subject as above, the investigation of Szilard should be  
continued despite the barrenness of the results. One letter  
or phone call once in three months would be sufficient for  
the passing of vital information and until we know for  
certain that he is 100% reliable we cannot entirely dis-  
regard this person.

L. R. GROVES,  
Brigadier General, C. E.

201 (England, 1943)



SECRET

DECLASSIFIED  
NND730039  
NARS Date



**CONFIDENTIAL**  
**WAR DEPARTMENT**  
**MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE**  
**WASHINGTON**

29 June 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL GROVES:

Subject: Dr. Leo Szilard.

1. Dr. Leo Szilard visited Washington, D. C., on June 20 and remained in the city until June 22. On June 22 he contacted Commander Lewis I. Strauss and had lunch with this officer. Dr. Szilard informed the receptionist at the Navy Building that he desired to see Commander Strauss in connection with securing a commission in the Navy. The files of the Navy Department have been checked, and no record of an application by Dr. Szilard appears. There is attached hereto a copy of the report of surveillance of Dr. Szilard, for your information.

2. The following information with reference to Commander Strauss was obtained from Lieut. Seabreeze, G-2 liaison officer with the Office of Naval Intelligence:

<sup>201</sup>  
LEWIS L. STRAUSS: (L for Lichtenstein)

Assistant to Chief of Bu Ord. Leg man. Does most of the work that arises between Secretary of Navy and Bu Ord. Sits in on joint boards when Army & Navy have contracts with a manufacturer.

(From 201 file)

6-22-43 T.O. for inspection of material purposes

Born 1-31-96 Charleston, West Virginia

Legal address - 52 William St., New York City

Occupation - Banker, member of firm Kuhn, Loeb & Co. (senior partner)

Director of U. S. Rubber

U. S. Leather

Gen. Am. Transportation Co.

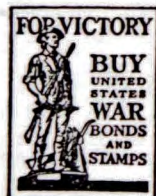
Traveled in Europe, Mexico, China, Japan.

Recommended for Captaincy 1-7-43 by Chief of Bu Ord  
Offered cabinet post by Hoover - Paul F. Foster, Comm.

Active Duty 3-4-41

Lt. Comm. - date of rank 10-19-25

Comm. 1-12-42



**CONFIDENTIAL**

DECLASSIFIED  
NND730039



**CONFIDENTIAL**

Wife - Alice Hanauer Strauss  
Child - Lewis Hanauer Strauss

As of 8-5-41 he was Chief Inspection Section. Devised & organized Estimating sub-section & Incentive plan for Mfgs. Also adviser to Clearing house which facilitates collection & transmittal of information for the Senate & House Committees investigating the Navy Department.

Father	Lewis S.
Mother	Rosa Lichtenstein
College	John Marshall-Richmond '14 (Valedictorian)
Home Address	25 E 76th, New York City
Clubs	Lalseride, Richmond; Century, City Midway, N.Y.C.; N.Y. State C of C; Nat'l Rep Club

Trustee of	Inst. for Crippled & Disabled (N.Y.) Am. Childrens Fund, Belgian Am. Educational Foundation, Baron de Hirs Fund, Com. for Polish Relief, Masaryks Institute, Coordinating Foundation Inc., Comm for relief in Belgium, Finnish Relief Fund, Eastern Saddle Horse Breeders Ass.
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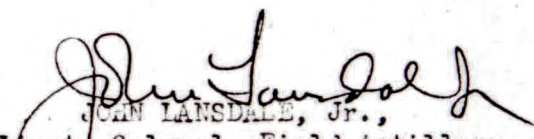
Business	1. Sec of Fleishman Movies Inc. 2. Sec of U. S. Food Administration, H.Hoover '17, '18, '19. 3. U.S. delegate to Final Armistice Convention Spa. '19 4. Kuhn Loeb '19 5. Partner, Kuhn Loeb '29
----------	---

Decorated by Poland, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Italy, Roumania, and Italy for World War Services.

Transferred I.V.S. to O.V.S. 2-25-41

7-16-25 Sec Navy requests enrollment in I.V.S.

For the A. C. of S., G-2:

  
JOHN LANSDALE, Jr.,  
Lieut. Colonel, Field Artillery,  
Chief, Investigation & Review Branch, CIG, MIS.

1 Inclosure:  
Cpy memo rpt 6-24-43 re Szilard

**CONFIDENTIAL**

- 2 -

DECLASSIFIED  
NND 730039  
NARS Date







**SECRET**

August 10, 1943.

**SUBJECT:** Clearance of James F. Hume, Attorney

**TO:** The Area Engineer  
Metallurgical Laboratory, P. O. Box 6140-A  
Chicago, Illinois.

1. Mr. Hume, Attorney, is cleared to receive from Dr. Szilard secret information concerning the special project as Dr. Szilard may have, as follows:

Documents and reports originating with Dr. Szilard covering work done by Dr. Szilard before November 1940 and information, to be given orally by Dr. Szilard regarding the special project since November 1940.

2. Mr. Hume is not cleared to examine reports (except as above) connected with the special project covering work done either before or after November 1940.

L. R. GROVES,  
Brigadier General, C. E.

A

**SECRET**

201 (Hume, James F.) X 333.5



ACCESS RESTRICTED

The item identified below has been withdrawn from this file:

File Designation

201 S21 LARD

Date

14 Aug 43

From

To

In the review of this file this item was removed because access to it is restricted. Restrictions on records in the National Archives are stated in general and specific record group restriction statements which are available for examination. The item identified above has been withdrawn because it contains:



Security-Classified Information



Otherwise Restricted Information

CENSORSHIP

Authority

5-25-73

Date



ACCESS RESTRICTED

The item identified below has been withdrawn from this file:

File Designation

201 Szilard

Date

14 Aug '43

From

To

In the review of this file this item was removed because access to it is restricted. Restrictions on records in the National Archives are stated in general and specific record group restriction statements which are available for examination. The item identified above has been withdrawn because it contains:



Security-Classified Information



Otherwise Restricted Information

ARCH/CENSORSHIP  
Authority

5/25/73  
Date



GA NOW PLS

USEO CHICAGO AREA UNIV OF CHICAGO CHICAO ILL

8-23-43

2-43 PM CWT

JTH/HP

GÈN L R GROVES

WASHINGTON LIAISON OFFICE

WASHINGTON D C

CORRECTION ON THE TELETYPE CONCERNING JAMES HUME, FOR MAL  
CLEARANCE GRANTED JAMES HUME 23 AUGUST 1943. REF CGI-1.

PETERSON

END HP

END AMCTKZ

70

*Notified  
Capt. Loveland  
8/23/43*

USEO CHICAGO AREA UNIV OF CHICAGO CHICAGO ILL

8-23-43

2-31 PM CWT

,5 XXX JTH/HP

GÈN L R GROVES

WASHINGTON LIAISON OFFICE

WASHINGTON D C

FORMAL CLEARANCE GRANTED JAMES HUME, WE AUGST 1943. REF CGI-1

PETERSON

MIN PLS

DECLASSIFIED  
NND730039

*J*

*85-1*



WASHINGTON LIAISON OFFICE WASH D X 13 SEPT 1943 1940 Z TL-990

OFFICE OF AREA ENGINEER

CHICAGO AREA

CHICAGO ILL

ATTENTION -- LT COL HERBERT METCALF

SIGNED -- ROBERT C LAVENDER

SW KC

ADVISE SERIAL NUMBER OF SZILARD ABANDONED DIVISIONAL APPLICATION  
AND SECURE FROM SZILARD POWER TO INSPECT AND MAKE COPIES THEREOF

END AMC

END HP X

FNN

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

1110730039



**SECRET**

WAR DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS

WASHINGTON

**SECRET**

By order of the Chief of Engineers

ADDRESS REPLY TO  
CHIEF OF ENGINEERS, U. S. ARMY  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

REFER TO FILE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

8 October 1943.

Mr. Leo Szilard,  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

I desire to invite your attention to the fact that the Secretary of War has officially determined that all of the work of the Manhattan District involves the National Defense within the meaning of 50 U. S. Code 3232. This includes all information pertaining to the project on which you have been working at the University of Chicago. All such information is vital to the National Defense and falls within the purview of the National Espionage Act.

It is desired that you acknowledge by signature in the place provided below, the fact that you are aware of the foregoing and that you will not give any information of any kind relating to the project to any unauthorized persons.

Sincerely,

*L. R. Groves*  
L. R. GROVES,  
Brigadier General, C. E.

I have read and thoroughly understand the above and wish to state that I will comply with it wholeheartedly.

\_\_\_\_\_  
LEO SZILARD

**SECRET**

This document contains information affecting the national defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Act, 50 U. S. C. 3232, and its transmission or the revelation of its contents in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

DECLASSIFIED

11/10/73 0039



ADDRESS REPLY TO  
CHIEF OF ENGINEERS, U. S. ARMY  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS  
WASHINGTON

REFER TO FILE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**CONFIDENTIAL**

9 October 1943

Mr. Leo Szilard  
420 West 116th St.  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your telegram dated 8 October  
to Lt. Col. Lansdale.

It is my understanding that at the conference re-  
cently held between you, Captain Lavender, and Lt. Col.  
Lansdale, you stated that you would proceed to a settlement  
of the law suit between you and Mr. Isbert Adams so that you  
would be in a position to convey all interest in inventions  
made by you prior to your employment on Government contracts.

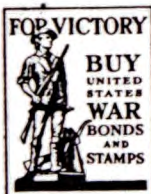
You were assured that as soon as you were able to  
convey full rights, negotiations would be entered into with  
a view to acquisition by the Government of any rights you  
may have and your reemployment on Government contracts.

I repeat this assurance, and I believe that we  
will be able to arrive at a satisfactory settlement after  
the Adams matter is cleared up.

Very truly yours,

L. R. GROVES  
Brig. Gen., C. E.

Copy No. 1: Addressee  
2 & 3: Gen. Groves



**CONFIDENTIAL**

DECLASSIFIED  
NND730039

*301 (Adams, Mr. Isbert) (cc)  
x 672 (Sylvan)*



C O P Y

CDA20 NL

QR NEWYORK NY 8

COLONEL LANSDALE

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE WAR DEPT PENTAGON BLDG WASHDC  
FIND THAT IT WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR ME TO MEET CONDITIONS  
OF PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AND WOULD THEREFORE NOW APPRECIATE  
ASSURANCE BY LAVENDER AND GENERAL TO THE EFFECT THAT THE LEADER  
OF THE SPECIAL PROJECT WILL BE GIVEN A FREE HAND TO RE EMPLOY ME  
WITH BACK PAY AT HCY DISCRETIM SO THAT HE WILL BE FREE TO LIVE  
UP TO HIS INTERPRETATION OF THE UNDERSTANDING THAT EXISTS BETWEEN  
HIM AND ME STOP SHALL SEND YOU PHOTOCOPY OF LETTER SIGNED BY  
PROJECT LEADER DATED MARCH 26 IN WHICH CONDITIONS FOR MY RE  
EMPLOYMENT WITH BACK PAY WERE DEFINED STOP I RE AFFIRM THAT I NEVER  
REFUSED ANY CHECK TENDERED TO ME BY UNIVERSITY AND WOULD APPRECIATE  
YOUR CHECKING THIS POINT STOP PLEASE NOTE ALSO THAT I INFORMED  
MR HUME WHO REPRESENTS ME IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH LAVENDER ABOUT  
LAWSUIT WHEN HE TOOK OVER STOP WIRE CONTAINING ASSURANCE  
REQUESTED WOULD HAVE TO REACH ME MONDAY MORNING TO INFLUENCE  
OUTCOME 420 WEST 116 ST

SZILARD

423AM0

Recd MI M/C 1033Z 9 October 43



WAR DEPARTMENT  
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

CI/RB  
JL/jfb

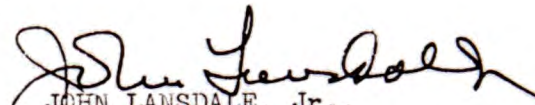
11 October 1943.

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL GROVES:

Subject: Dr. Szilard.

There is forwarded herewith for your information  
a copy of a telegram received by the undersigned from Dr.  
Szilard.

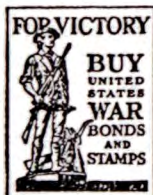
For the A. C. of S., G-2:

  
JOHN LANSDALE, Jr.,  
Lieut. Colonel, Field Artillery.  
Chief, Review Branch, CIG, MIS.

cc to Capt. Lavender

*L*

*attach to  
tele. - 22 10/9/43*



*201 (Szilard, J.) x 072 (Szilard Patent)*

DECLASSIFIED  
NND730039



SECRET

SECRET

by order of the Chief of Engineers

10/12/43

(Date)

SRH

MEMORANDUM

12 October 1943

The attached letter from General Groves to Mr. Leo Szilard inviting his attention to the determination by the Secretary of War that the work of the Manhattan District involves the National Defense within the meaning of Title 50 U. S. Code 31 and 32, and requesting his acknowledgment by signature on the letter representing that he is aware of this and representing that he will not give any such information to unauthorized persons, was handed to Mr. Szilard with a request for signature in the presence of Captain Lavender, Lieut. G. B. Davis, and Lieut. Colonel John Lansdale, Jr.

Mr. Szilard stated that, of course, he was aware of the Secretary of War's determination referred to, and stated that he would not disclose any information concerning the District to unauthorized persons. However, he declined to sign the statement set out at the bottom of the letter.

*Robert A. Lavender*  
Captain R. A. Lavender, USN

*John Lansdale Jr*  
Lieut. Col. John Lansdale, Jr.

*George B. Davis*  
First Lieut. Geo. B. Davis

attach to 9443  
Lt. 9 Oct. 1943

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED  
NND730039

201 (Szilard, L.)



WAR DEPARTMENT  
UNITED STATES ENGINEER OFFICE  
MANHATTAN DISTRICT  
P. O. BOX 42  
STATION F  
NEW YORK, N. Y.

IN REPLY  
REFER TO EIDM D-1

14 October 1943

MEMORANDUM to Brigadier General L. R. Groves.

Attached is receipt covering your letter of 9 October 1943 to Leo Szilard. This receipt was signed in the presence of Lt. B. W. Menke.

*K. D. M*  
K. D. NICHOLS  
Colonel, Corps of Engineers  
District Engineer

Incl.:  
Receipt

*Szilard*  
*201 (Szilard, L.)*

DECLASSIFIED  
NND730039  
NARS Date



# The University of Chicago

Metallurgical Laboratory

November 10, 1943

MIDWAY 0800  
EXT. 1290

Brig. Gen. L. R. Groves  
P. O. Box 2610  
Washington, D. C.

Dear General Groves:

The question of re-employing Leo Szilard is again before us, as the patent situation seems at least formally to have been cleared. It is my judgment that we should either place him again on our employment roll as a member of our research staff or that he should be officially disconnected from the project. His present status is that of an indefinite leave of absence without pay, in which capacity he is free to discuss matters with members of our project and cannot avoid learning of our major developments. To prevent such contacts it will be necessary to remove him officially from our rolls, a procedure which will I believe cause undesirable illwill on the part, both of himself and his friends.

May I accordingly request authorization to appoint him again on the regular salary of the Metallurgical Laboratory to conduct research under Dr. Fermi's direction. Granted that the adjustment proposed by Captain Lavender has been made, I should want to arrange his salary as the median for the research position which he will occupy.

Sincerely yours,

*Arthur H. Compton*

Arthur H. Compton

KT

cc: A. V. Peterson  
J. C. Stearns  
S. K. Allison



CONFIDENTIAL

**WAR DEPARTMENT**  
**MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE**  
**WASHINGTON**

CI/RE  
JL


11 November 1943.

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL GROVES:

Subject: Dr. Leo Szilard.

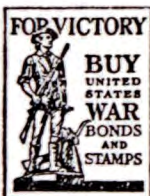
1. There are attached translations of several documents which were in the possession of Leo Szilard prior to the conference in Washington between Szilard, Captain Lavender, and this officer. Of course, many of these documents are without dates or connecting material. These things the confidential informant was unable to obtain. It is believed, however, that in view of your knowledge of the patent situation, they may contain information of some interest to you, and that possibly you may wish to show them to Captain Lavender.

For the A. C. of S., G-2:

  
JOHN LANSDALE, Jr.,  
Lieut. Colonel, Field Artillery,  
Chief, Review Branch, CIG, MIS.

85-1.1

31 Inclosures:  
Photostatic copies of  
papers of Szilard's.



CONFIDENTIAL



*201 (Sachs, Maurice)*

**SECRET**

**WAR DEPARTMENT**  
**MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE**  
**WASHINGTON**

26 November 1943.

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL GROVES:

Subject: Leo Szilard.

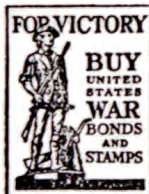
There is attached a rather interesting summary of information prepared by Lieut. Jones, and I must confess that I am at a loss as to how to check the possibilities suggested in the concluding paragraph. Do you have any reliable informants in Lehman Brothers?

For the A. C. of S., G-2:

*John Lansdale, Jr.*

JOHN LANSDALE, Jr.,  
Lieut. Colonel, Field Artillery,  
Chief, Review Branch, CIG, MIS.

1 Inclosure:  
Sof I fr Jones re Szilard  
11-15-43



**SECRET**



CONFIDENTIAL

WAR DEPARTMENT  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES ARMY COMMAND

TOJ/meb

SERIALS  
OFFICE, DIRECTOR INTELLIGENCE DIV  
CIVIC OPERA BUILDING, CHICAGO, ILL.  
(Office of Headquarters)

T. O. JONES,  
1st Lt., M. I.

Chicago, Illinois  
(Place)

Asst. Director, Intelligence Division

15 November 1943  
(Date)

Subject: LEO SZILARD

Summary of Information:

Information from a reliable informant indicates that a representative of the Chicago office of Lehman Brothers has recently stated that it is the belief of his firm that the European war will be concluded in six months, and that advice on investments is now being given on this basis. The firm has apparently felt since last summer that the end of the European war has been in sight and now has even more definite beliefs. It has not been possible to learn the specific reasons for the firm's position in this matter, the impression having been conveyed orally to the Chicago office by the New York office. Questioned as to the authenticity of such a report, the representative of the Chicago office mentioned that a number of partners and employees of the firm are now in influential service or war positions, including several in Washington, and one employed as a civilian by the combined Chiefs of Staff. The impression conveyed was that these men are enabled by their positions to give the firm sound advice.

It is further reported that another representative of the Chicago office recently returned from New York with the rumor that the war with Japan will cease at about the same time as the war with Germany. The source of this rumor is not known, and it is not known whether it represents the position of Lehman Brothers.

While expectation of peace seems to be growing more definite generally in financial circles, it is interesting to recall, in connection with the above information, the relationship between LEO SZILARD and Dr. Maurice Sachs of Lehman Brothers. This also calls to mind SZILARD's dealings with Commander Lewis Lichtenstein Strauss of Kuhn, Loeb and Co., and the "Strauss group", whomever that may consist of. The possibility that these two houses are cognizant of the nature and implications of SZILARD's present work seems unremote, and a misconception of certain elements of time might conceivably lead to the adoption of such policies as are mentioned above.

Previous Distribution:

Distribution:

Lt. Col. Lansdale, Jr. (2)  
Capt. Calvert (2)  
Lt. King (1)

CONFIDENTIAL

Evaluation	
-of source	-of information
_____	Reliable _____
_____	Credible _____
_____	Questionable _____
_____	Undetermined _____

16-32269-1 GPO

DECLASSIFIED



**CONFIDENTIAL**

13 November 1943.

Captain R. A. Lavender, USN (Retired)  
1530 P Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C.

I am inclosing a copy of a memorandum from Col. Lansdale together with the thirty-one inclosures. These are the only inclosures we have so please send them back. Also I doubt if Szilard knows we have these copies so please be guided accordingly.

L. R. GROVES,  
Brigadier General, C. E.

Incls.

nvw

201 (Szilard, L.)  
85-1.1

**CONFIDENTIAL**



**SECRET**

P. O. BOX 2610  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

25 November 1943

LRG:mk

Dr. A. H. Compton, <sup>201</sup>  
University of Chicago,  
Metallurgical Laboratory,  
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Dr. Compton:

With reference to your letter of 10 November 1943 and to numerous conversations we have had on the matter of Leo Szilard, I feel most strongly that he should not be re-employed by you without my prior approval. The question of Mr. Szilard's reemployment must await the solution of the patent problem.

Whenever we think we have the patent situation in hand and are in full agreement, Mr. Szilard suddenly and without warning shifts his position completely and we have to start all over again.

Sincerely,

L. R. GROVES,  
Brigadier General, C. E.

This document contains information affecting the national defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Act, 18 U. S. C., 31 and 32, as amended. Its transmission or the revelation of its contents in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

**SECRET**

DECLASSIFIED

201 (Szilard, L1)



FROM: WAR DEPARTMENT

BUREAU \_\_\_\_\_

## TELEGRAM

OFFICIAL BUSINESS—GOVERNMENT RATES

3-10499-1

Claremont Haynes Co  
Vernon House Sicilian Avenue  
Bloomsbury Square  
London, W. C. 1, ENGLAND.

Kindly advise by cable whether renewal fee  
for my patent has been paid c/o Metallurgical Laboratory,  
University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois.

~~Lorane Detre~~

Lorane Detre  
44 Avenue du College  
Pullylausanne, SWITZERLAND

SEND RECENTLY \$125. PLEASE CABLE ME AT 1155  
EAST 57th STREET, CHICAGO IF RECEIVED. CABLE IF EVERYTHING  
ALRIGHT AND IF YOU NEED FURTHER FINANCIAL HELP

DECLASSIFIED

ANN 7300 39

By \_\_\_\_\_

NARS, Date \_\_\_\_\_



SECRET

TOJ/c-1

Chicago, Illinois  
May 4, 1943  
VI/2-479

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE

Subject: IMO SZILARD  
Quadrangle Club  
Chicago, Illinois

Re: Cablegrams received by Subject.

Information has been received from a confidential source that two cablegrams have recently been received by the Subject. The first, evidently in reply to a cable he sent to London, which was reported earlier, read as follows:

REMYAT. RE PAID FEBRUARY WRITING

/s/ CHARLES CHAMBERS

The second one received by the Subject, evidently in reply to another cablegram he sent to Switzerland, read as follows:

WE ARE ALL RIGHT APPRECIATE THE MONEY. NO MORE  
NEEDED. CARES FOR ABOUT FATHER AND CHILD.  
OCCASION MAY BE INTERESTED IN LONDON DOCTOR.

/s/ ROY BELL

T. O. JONES  
Special Agent, CIO

(INFO )

DECLASSIFIED
NNJ. 730039
BY [ ] DATE [ ]



ACCESS RESTRICTED

The item identified below has been withdrawn from this file:

File Designation

201 Secret

Date

7 May 1973

From

Letter

To

In the review of this file this item was removed because access to it is restricted. Restrictions on records in the National Archives are stated in general and specific record group restriction statements which are available for examination. The item identified above has been withdrawn because it contains:

☒ Security-Classified Information

☐ Otherwise Restricted Information

Approved / [Signature]  
Authority

5/25/73  
Date

NND. 730039



# Signal Corps, United States Army

Received at

War Department Message Center,  
Room 3441, Munitions Building,  
Washington, D. C.

WC71 35 DL

UG CHICAGO ILL OCT 26 1942 1153A

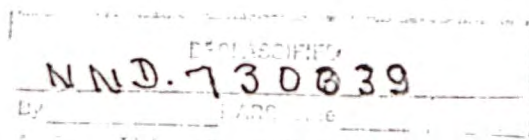
GENERAL L R GROVES

ROOM 5120 NEW WAR DEPT BLDG 21ST & VIRGINIA WASHDC  
HAVE GIVEN SZILARD TILL WEDNESDAY TO REMOVE BASE OF  
OPERATIONS TO NEWYORK. ACTION BASED ON EFFICIENT OPERATION  
OF ORGANIZATION NOT ON RELIABILITY. ANTICIPATE PROBABLE  
RESIGNATION. SUGGEST ARMY FOLLOW HIS MOTIONS BUT NO  
DRASTIC ACTION NOW

ARTHUR H COMPTON.

259P.

SZILARD.





MANHATTAN LIAISON OFFICE WASHINGTON D C APRIL 28-3/07 PM

AEXX AREA ENGINEER

CHICAGO LIL

ATTN A V PETERSON

PLEASE GET MAJOR PETERSON TO THE TELETYPE TO RECEIVE AND ANSWER  
IMMEDIATELY A CODED MESSAGE. ADVISE ME WHEN HE IS AT THE MCXX  
MACHINE.

THIS IS THE LAST UNCODED MESSAGE TO BE SENT . HEREAFTER ALL MESAGES  
ARE TO BE IN CODE

SW KC

MAJOR PETERSON CHICAGO IS SZILARD IN CHICAGO AND IF SO IS HE KEEPING  
REGULAR HOURS AT UNIVERSITY. PLS ANS  
DO NOT BELIEVE HE IS KEEPING REGULAR HOURS AT UNIVERSITY.  
HE WAS HERE ONLY A SHORT TIME THIS MORNING. MIN  
PLEASE INFORM ME AS TO WHAT IF ANY PEOPLE HAVE ARRIVED FROM VERNON  
SMYTZ GROUPS GENERAL L R GROVES

END AMC

DECLASSIFIED	
NN 730039	
By	NARS Date



ACCESS RESTRICTED

The item identified below has been withdrawn from this file:

2 p.

File Designation

201 SZILARD, Leo

Date

12 July, '45

From

CHERWELL

To

groves

In the review of this file this item was removed because access to it is restricted. Restrictions on records in the National Archives are stated in general and specific record group restriction statements which are available for examination. The item identified above has been withdrawn because it contains:



Security-Classified Information



Otherwise Restricted Information

UK  
Authority

5-25-73  
Date

DECLASSIFIED	
NND 130039	
By	NARS Date



July 17, 1945

## A PETITION TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Discoveries of which the people of the United States are not aware may affect the welfare of this nation in the near future. The liberation of atomic power which has been achieved places atomic bombs in the hands of the Army. It places in your hands, as Commander-in-Chief, the fateful decision whether or not to sanction the use of such bombs in the present phase of the war against Japan.

We, the undersigned scientists, have been working in the field of atomic power. Until recently we have had to fear that the United States might be attacked by atomic bombs during this war and that her only defense might lie in a counterattack by the same means. Today, with the defeat of Germany, this danger is averted and we feel impelled to say what follows:

The war has to be brought speedily to a successful conclusion and attacks by atomic bombs may very well be an effective method of warfare. We feel, however, that such attacks on Japan could not be justified, at least not unless the terms which will be imposed after the war on Japan were made public in detail and Japan were given an opportunity to surrender.

If such public announcement gave assurance to the Japanese that they could look forward to a life devoted to peaceful pursuits in their homeland and if Japan still refused to surrender our nation might then, in certain circumstances, find itself forced to resort to the use of atomic bombs. Such a step, however, ought not to be made at any time without seriously considering the moral responsibilities which are involved.

The development of atomic power will provide the nations with new means of destruction. The atomic bombs at our disposal represent only the first step in this direction, and there is almost no limit to the destructive power which will become available in the course of their future development. Thus a nation which sets the precedent of using these newly liberated forces of nature for purposes of destruction may have to bear the responsibility of opening the door to an era of devastation on an unimaginable scale.

If after this war a situation is allowed to develop in the world which permits rival powers to be in uncontrolled possession of these new means of destruction, the cities of the United States as well as the cities of other nations will be in continuous danger of sudden annihilation. All the resources of the United States, moral and material, may have to be mobilized to prevent the advent of such a world situation. Its prevention is at present the solemn responsibility of the United States--singled out by virtue of her lead in the field of atomic power.

The added material strength which this lead gives to the United States brings with it the obligation of restraint and if we were to violate this obligation our moral position would be weakened in the eyes of the world and in our own eyes. It would then be more difficult for us to live up to our responsibility of bringing the unloosened forces of destruction under control.

In view of the foregoing, we, the undersigned, respectfully petition: first, that you exercise your power as Commander-in-Chief, to rule that the United States shall not resort to the use of atomic bombs in this war unless the terms which will be imposed upon Japan have been made public in detail and Japan knowing these terms has refused to surrender; second, that in such an event the question whether or not to use atomic bombs be decided by you in the light of the considerations presented in this petition as well as all the other moral responsibilities which are involved.



# SECRET

Metallurgical Laboratory

MUC-45-71

This document consists of 1 pages and 0 figures  
No. 2 of 3 copies, Series 4

July 25, 1945

Major General L. R. Groves  
P.O. Box 2610  
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Major C. C. Pierce

Dear Major Pierce:

Enclosed I am sending you a copy of the letter which I wrote to Captain Lavender on February 27, 1945. I understand that the procedure which I proposed in it comes in conflict with certain general regulations which your office has issued. Since my proposal is compatible with actual requirements of security even though it may not fit in with your general regulations, may I request that an exception be made in order to fit the requirements of my case?

In view of the last paragraph of my letter of February 27 Captain Lavender's organization did not feel free to hand over to me the text of such patent applications as they have prepared for fear that I might make a copy for myself. As a result a situation has arisen in which I am asked to study voluminous documents prepared by Captain Lavender's organization which are shown to me but are not handed over to me. This procedure is quite anomalous and makes it exceedingly difficult for me to ascertain that the patent applications are properly drawn-up and that I am actually their joint or sole inventor.

Your general regulations as interpreted by Captain Lavender are in the circumstances hindering the speedy filing of patent applications which have been prepared by Captain Lavender and of which I might be the inventor.

Very truly yours,

Leo Szilard

LS:sw

enc. (1)

cc: Dr. R. C. Tolman

This document contains information  
defense of the United States within  
Espionage Act, U. S. C. 50: 31 and  
or the revelation of its contents in  
unauthorized person is prohibited by law

DECLASSIFIED

NND-730039

By \_\_\_\_\_ NARS, Date \_\_\_\_\_

4-5



**SECRET**  
**Metallurgical Laboratory**

P.O. BOX 5207  
CHICAGO 90, ILLINOIS

MUC: 1.5-72  
This document consists of 1  
pages and 0 figures  
No. 1 of 2 copies, Series A

July 25, 1945

BUTTERFIELD 4300

Dr. R. C. Tolman  
National Defense Research Committee  
Munitions Building, Room 1316  
Washington, D. C.

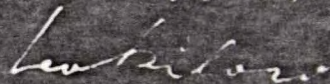
Dear Dr. Tolman:

I am enclosing a letter which I wrote to Captain Lavender on February 27 of this year and a letter which I am writing today to Major Pierce in General Groves' office.

While I have no reason to believe that you are concerned with matters of this sort it is my understanding that someone told you of the difficulties which are in the way of getting the patents filed of which I am supposed to be the inventor. The enclosed copies will give you information as to the cause of these difficulties.

I am also enclosing a copy of a petition which was signed by 67 scientists within the Chicago Project. As you will see it is limited to the moral aspect in the issue.

Very sincerely yours,



Leo Szilard

LS:sw

enc. (3)





SECRET



ARMY SERVICE FORCES  
UNITED STATES ENGINEER OFFICE  
MANHATTAN DISTRICT  
OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE

IN REPLY  
REFER TO

EIDMG

P. O. Box E

31 October 1945

Subject: Leo Szilard

To: Major Gen. L. R. Groves, P. O. Box 2610, Washington, D. C.

1. As of this date, Dr. Leo Szilard is still on the Metallurgical Laboratory payroll.

2. Captain R. A. Lavender (U.S.N.) has requested that Dr. Szilard remain on the project until certain patent agreements have been signed.

3. No further action will be taken by me for release of Dr. Szilard until the patent agreements are signed unless further instructions are received from you.

*K. D. Nichols*  
K. D. NICHOLS  
Colonel, Corps of Engineers  
District Engineer

*ag*

*for (Szilard, doc)*

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NND-730039	
By	NARS, Date

SECRET



## HEADQUARTERS, ARMY SERVICE FORCES

## MEMO ROUTING SLIP

TO THE FOLLOWING IN ORDER INDICATED:

	NAME OR TITLE	ORGANIZATION	BUILDING AND ROOM	INITIALS
1	Col Fuld			DATE
2	Gen. Nistich			
3				

Please find out status of patent agreements.

N

16 Nov <sup>Spilard</sup> - agreed he would review his applications and state whether or not he was the (4 Jan) inventor. Took one case and signed it, then took another and no word further on that. 7 others outstanding - either sole or joint. He seems to be stalling. Could easily review all the cases in two months - in one month if he wanted to.

FROM:	NAME	ORGANIZATION	BUILDING AND ROOM	DATE
				<i>f</i>
				TELEPHONE

W. D., A. G. O. Form 0115  
1 October 1944This Form supersedes W. D., A. G. O. Form 0115, 23 March 1944,  
which may be used until existing stocks are exhausted.

16-31046-2 GPO

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NND-730039

By \_\_\_\_\_ NARS, Date \_\_\_\_\_



**SECRET**

**Metallurgical Laboratory**

P.O. BOX 5207  
CHICAGO 80, ILLINOIS

February 27, 1945

MUC-LS-58

This document consists of 1  
pages and 0 figures  
No. 1 of 3 copies, Series B  
BUTTERFIELD 4300

Captain R. A. Lavender  
1530 P Street, N. W.  
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Captain Lavender:

Thank you for the assurance contained in your letter of February 12. I am advised, however, that the assurance which you give me does not bind the United States Government and that if you left the O.S.R.D. or if the O.S.R.D. were dissolved I could not be sure that I could see the text of these patent applications which I sold to the Government.

A situation could thus arise many years from now that I might invent something which I believe to be new, having forgotten that it was already contained in one of these patent applications which I sold to the Government. I might then file an application for this supposedly new invention and might sell it to someone.

In the circumstances, I feel I must have copies of all patent applications which I assign to the Government and have such copies as my personal property in my own custody. In order to safeguard secrecy I would keep such copies as a safe deposit in an area guarded under the auspices of the Armed Services under conditions comparable to those of the Metallurgical Laboratory in Chicago. In particular, patent applications which were prepared at Site Y I would send to Site Y to be kept in safe deposit for me.

If you do not feel that you are able to let me have copies of my own patent applications under these conditions, then the best thing appears to be that I take up this matter with Dr. Bush. I do not wish to bother him about this at present, but I hope to see him about something else in the next few months and I might then have the opportunity of discussing this point with him also.

In the meantime, in order to avoid delaying the filing of any patent applications I am willing to take upon myself the responsibility of making copies of these applications. Since I am the originator of the information contained in these applications, I feel free to have such copies made and to keep one copy as my own in safe deposit in the guarded area of the Metallurgical Laboratory. This, then, is what I propose to do.

Very truly yours,

Leo Szilard

LS:sw

cc: Director, Metallurgical Laboratory





SECRET

This document consists of 1 pg.  
Copy 1 of 1, Series A.



ARMY SERVICE FORCES  
UNITED STATES ENGINEER OFFICE  
MANHATTAN DISTRICT  
OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE  
P. O. Box E

IN REPLY  
REFER TO

EIDMK

4 March 1946

Subject: Leo Szilard

MEMORANDUM to Brig. Gen. K. D. Nichols

Inclosed herewith is a letter for your signature to  
Major General L. R. Groves with reference to Dr. Leo Szilard.

*A. V. Peterson*

A. V. PETERSON,  
Lt. Col., Corps of Engineers

Incl.:

Ltr. to Genl. Groves, in dup.

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NND-730039	
By	NARS, Date

SECRET





SECRET

This document consists of 1 pg.  
Copy 1 3, Series A.



ARMY SERVICE FORCES  
UNITED STATES ENGINEER OFFICE  
MANHATTAN DISTRICT  
OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE  
P. O. Box E

IN REPLY  
REFER TO EIDMK

4 March 1946

Subject: Leo Szilard

To: Major General L. R. Groves, P. O. Box 2610, Washington, D. C.

1. As of this date, Dr. Leo Szilard is still with the Metallurgical Laboratory. He has been in a status of leave of absence without pay since 1 December 1945.
2. Captain R. A. Lavender (USN) has requested that Dr. Szilard remain with the project until certain patent agreements have been signed.
3. These patent agreements have not yet been signed.

*K. D. Nichols*  
K. D. NICHOLS,  
Brig. Gen., Corps of Engineers  
District Engineer

*g*

*201 (copy) (of)*

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NND-730039	
By	NARS, Date

SECRET



ACCESS RESTRICTED

The item identified below has been withdrawn from this file:

File Designation 201 SEWARD

Date 12 Jan '46

~~From~~ Trans. of testimony

To

In the review of this file this item was removed because access to it is restricted. Restrictions on records in the National Archives are stated in general and specific record group restriction statements which are available for examination. The item identified above has been withdrawn because it contains:

☒ Security-Classified Information

☐ Otherwise Restricted Information

US Congress  
Authority

5/25/73  
Date

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NND. 730039	
By	NARS, Date

8p



**CONFIDENTIAL**  
WAR DEPARTMENT  
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

May 8, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL GROVES:

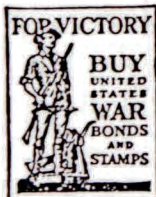
Subject: DSM

There is attached copy of the reply received by Leo Szilard to his recent cablegram to Switzerland. This is attached both in the form in which it was sent from Switzerland and in the form in which it was transmitted to Szilard. Information in Szilard's file indicates that L. Detre is the brother-in-law of Szilard.

For the A. C. of S., G-2:

*John Lansdale, Jr.*  
JOHN LANSDALE, Jr.,  
Major, Field Artillery,  
Chief, Review Branch, CIG, MIS.

1 Inclosure:  
Incl. 1. copy cable.



**CONFIDENTIAL**

201 (Szilard, Leo)





**CONFIDENTIAL**



**ARMY SERVICE FORCES  
UNITED STATES ENGINEER OFFICE  
MANHATTAN DISTRICT  
OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE**

IN REPLY  
REFER TO

EIDME

12 January 1946

KDN/EJB/vo

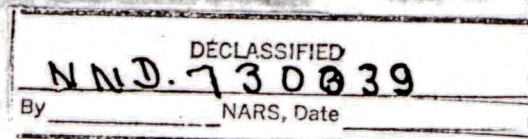
MEMORANDUM to: Major General L. R. Groves.

1. In compliance with your request I have prepared comments on certain statements made by Dr. Leo Szilard to the Special Senate Committee on Atomic Energy. Dr. Szilard's statements and my comments are inclosed.

2. My recommendation is to refrain from making any comment on Dr. Szilard's testimony unless requested to do so. When dealing with one who juggles the truth and warps facts as this individual does, it is not advisable to argue with him publicly.

K. D. NICHOLS,  
Colonel, Corps of Engineers,  
District Engineer.

5 Incls.:  
Statements w/Comment.





CONFIDENTIAL

STATEMENT

p. 279 - 280

P. 662-663 -- "As far as the production of plutonium is concerned, which is described in the Smyth Report, any competent mechanical or chemical engineer who spends some time thinking about the problem can see that no precision work is involved in the manufacture of plutonium.

"No mechanical precision work is involved. The design which we actually used did require rather narrow tolerances and high-class workmanship. This we could afford because we have this kind of workmanship in abundance. .... The statement has been made before this committee by another witness that it requires high precision workmanship such as can be provided only by a few countries, including Switzerland, to make atomic bombs. As far as the production of plutonium is concerned such a statement would have no basis in fact.

"That is my view. I am not making any statement about the separation of light uranium, but only the making of plutonium, and I am not making any statement about the construction of the bomb; but it was indicated here in earlier testimony that it was not the bomb, but the production of the fissionable material which is difficult. I flatly contradict that statement as far as plutonium is concerned."

COMMENT

Largely an individual opinion. Qualified engineers and chemists who worked on design and chemical separation hold different views. If the statement is limited to the mechanical precision required, as apparently it is, one can agree that less mechanical precision equipment is required as compared to the gaseous diffusion and electromagnetic processes for separation of U-235. However, mechanical precision work is only one element required in the design, construction and operation of a plutonium plant. Many other problems such as purity of materials, protection from corrosion, protection of workmen, control of by-products (poisons), chemical separation, precision of construction, precision of preparation of materials, certainty of operation, etc., are involved. The solution of these problems is not as apparent as Dr. Szilard's statement infers.

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By	NARS, Date



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STATEMENT

280-2791

P. 695-696 -- "Compartmentalization of information was practiced in the atomic energy project from the very first day on, that is, from November, 1940, or before the Army was in the picture.....I shall be glad to demonstrate, if required, that compartmentalization of information was the cause for our failure to realize that light uranium might be produced in quantities sufficient to make atomic bombs. We should have known that in the fall of 1940. We might have failed to realize this altogether.....if we hadn't had the good fortune that the British scientists were not compartmentalized. They were able to put two and two together and communicated their conclusions to the United States Government in the middle of 1941. Had we in the United States reached these conclusions in the fall of 1940, we most likely would have had bombs ready before the invasion of Europe."

P. 697 -- "We could have had it eighteen months earlier, and with their (Germany) chemical industry they could have moved equally fast."

P. 698 -- "We did not put two and two together because the two two's were in a different compartment; they were not together. That is, the men working on that property of uranium from which they could deduce how much was needed for the bomb had no idea that you can extract light uranium in appreciable quantities."

P. 705 -- (When could the bomb have been dropped?)

"About the spring of '44 would be my best guess, because the big delay was that our work did not have a clear goal until the end of '41, because we did not know that amounts of fissionable material which we could produce were sufficient to make bombs."

Senator Johnson: "That is a delay of 18 months?"

Dr. S.: "That is a delay of 18 months, yes, and that is the 18 months that was the chief loss of time."

COMMENT

The Army does not have detailed knowledge as to the extent of compartmentalization in the program prior to its assumption of responsibility for the project in 1942. However, Dr. Szilard's statement appears inconsistent in that he states that compartmentalization of information was practiced from November 1940, but that without such compartmentalization we should have realized that light uranium could be produced in

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sufficient quantities in the fall of 1940. Voluntary censorship was not effected by scientists until April 1940. Subsequent to this date, Chap. III of the Smyth Report indicates that numerous meetings were held and the problem pursued by scientists and the Government in an expeditious manner. The reason the project did not have a clear goal until the end of 1941 could more logically be attributed to the fact that it takes time to fully evaluate the possibilities of a new scientific and industrial field such as that required by the atomic bomb. Even today it would be difficult to get a clear-cut decision and equanimity of opinion concerning the best and fastest way to have done the job, back in 1940-43 there was far less on which to base such a decision or to achieve agreement among the experts concerned. Whether it could have been developed more rapidly is a matter of opinion.

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STATEMENT

292

P. 701-702 -- "I might say that the three men in England who were instrumental in reaching the conclusion that atomic bombs could be made came out of Germany in 1933. At that time in England, in 1941, most English physicists were engaged in radar work and other types of work, and these refugees who were not taken into that work, which was considered of very great importance for the war, had more leisure than their English colleagues to think of such remote possibilities as atomic bombs.....(They were) Peierls, Frisch and Simon."

COMMENT

Rudolph Ernest Peierls was born and educated in Germany. He came to England, in 1933, a refugee from racial discrimination and persecution. He became a British subject in 1940. Was appointed Professor of applied mathematics in Birmingham University in 1937; was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1945. Dr. Peierls is one of the foremost theoretical physicists in England. He has carried out much important work on the quantum theory of solids, on the electron theory of metals, and on the quantum theory of the electromagnetic field and of the nucleus. Much of the latter work has been done in correspondence with members of the Copenhagen Institute of Professor Niels Bohr, to which he has paid frequent visits.

Otto Robert Frisch. Born and educated in Vienna. Worked for three years in Berlin on a fellowship (at institute corresponding to our Bureau of Standards). After a short period at University of Berlin, he obtained a post at Hamburg University under Professor O. Stern, who had a world-wide renown for his researches on the properties of molecular rays. Dr. Frisch worked on this subject for three years, publishing some papers of outstanding interest. In 1933 he was dismissed on racial grounds and proceeded to London. Here he worked under Professor P. M. S. Blackett, learning some of the techniques of nuclear physics. In 1934 he went to the Institute of Professor Niels Bohr in Copenhagen, where he continued work in nuclear physics, making many important observations on the properties of neutrons. It was during his stay in Copenhagen that Frisch, with his aunt, Professor Lise Meitner, put forward the suggestion of "nuclear fission" to explain the behavior of uranium under bombardment by neutrons, and he made experiments to prove this. In the summer of 1939 Dr. Frisch came to England. He was one of the first to realize the possibility that the fission of uranium might lead to the development of a bomb of unprecedented violence and he has been working on this project since the early days of 1940. He became a British citizen in 1943.

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By	NARS, Date



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03 Franz Simon. Born and educated in Germany. Was an associate professor at the University of Berlin and Professor at Breslau University until 1944. He left Germany voluntarily because he did not approve of Hitler and his philosophy. Became a British subject in 1939. Reputedly and extremely capable physical chemist and has done some very fine low temperature work. He and Peierls accompanied Oliphant and Chadwick to this country in 1943.

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By _____	NARS, Date _____



CONFIDENTIAL

STATEMENT

293 -

P. 703-704 -- (Complaining on compartmentalization)

"At first we all observed rules on compartmentalization because we did not realize ourselves how damaging it was. Later on, the rules were purposely violated because we would rather violate rules than slow down our work.....Some of you saw at Oak Ridge a certain installation and were told by a representative of the Army that it shortened the war by one week. That installation was based on a pilot plant which was built by the Navy. The installation was erected at the recommendation of Dr. Oppenheimer made in an interview with Dr. Bush. But if you investigated how Dr. Oppenheimer got the idea of recommending this to Dr. Bush, you would find that at least two patriotic scientists deliberately violated the rules and broke through compartments. Afterwards, everything was covered up nicely. Dr. Oppenheimer's project officially asked for the information which was already unofficially in their possession, and made an official study of what they already knew, and then finally Dr. Oppenheimer approached Dr. Bush."

COMMENT

The files indicate that the idea of possible utilization of the thermal diffusion pilot plant constructed by the Navy was broached in a letter from Dr. Oppenheimer to General Groves dated 28 April 1944. Dr. Oppenheimer stated that his information was based upon two reports approximately a year old, of studies made on this method by the Naval Research Laboratory, and upon a discussion with Captain Parsons, U.S.N. These reports were made available to Dr. Oppenheimer's group for other purposes, and there was no actual violation of compartmentalization as referred to by Dr. Szilard. Dr. Oppenheimer felt that this plant might be utilized temporarily pending the completion of K-25 and suggested that the problem be investigated.

The possibility of utilizing this facility was discussed in a meeting of the Military Policy Committee on 10 May 1944. At this meeting it was decided to secure additional information.

A committee, consisting of W. K. Lewis, E. V. Murphree, and R. C. Tolman, was appointed by General Groves on 31 May 1944 to investigate the problem. The committee reported on 3 June 1944. Their report outlined possible production data which was less optimistic than Dr. Oppenheimer's comments. The committee pointed out that utilization of the pilot plant in this manner would delay certain experiments which the Navy desired to undertake.

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By	NARS, Date



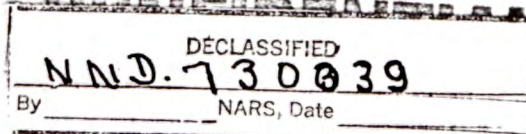
On 12 June 1944 General Groves requested Dr. Murphree to render a report as to the cost and time of construction of a thermal diffusion plant. This report was submitted 17 June 1944.

The problem was reviewed at a meeting of the Military Policy Committee on 21 June 1944. At this meeting General Groves stated that it appeared on the surface to be practicable to construct at a reasonable cost, in a hurry, a plant which would produce a reasonable amount of the material of double concentration. It was pointed out that there appeared to be sufficient available steam for this purpose at the Clinton Engineer Works. This steam would be available only for a short time pending completion of the gaseous diffusion plant. It was agreed that the investigation should be actively pursued and that if these indications were found to be reasonable that the necessary arrangements should be made to construct a plant as rapidly as possible with a view to having it definitely in production well before 1 January 1945.

Previously the S-1 scientific committee had maintained contact with the Navy's work through Dr. Lyman Briggs, a member of this committee and special committees appointed for the purpose. Previous reviews of the project, prior to that made in June 1944, had indicated that the method was not yet ready for large scale development. The last such review was made by Drs. H. C. Urey, E. V. Murphree, Lyman J. Briggs, and W. K. Lewis in September 1943. At this time as well as on several previous occasions full consideration was given to the idea of using such a plant as a feeder to other plants at Oak Ridge. Any implication that the idea originated at Los Alamos is incorrect.

Reports bearing on the subject are:

1. Letter from Dr. Urey to Dr. Briggs dated 28 January 1943, Contract No. OEMsr-412, Columbia Serial No. 100L-39.
2. Letter from Dr. Briggs to Dr. Conant dated 30 January 1943.
3. Memorandum by Dr. Urey dated 19 February 1943, Columbia Serial No. 100M-79.
4. Memorandum "Designs of Cascades" by Karl Cohen, dated 13 August 1943, Contract W-7405-eng-50, Columbia Serial No. A-781, 4-R-95.
5. Letter to W. K. Lewis from Karl Cohen and W. I. Thompson dated 3 September 1943, Contract W-7405-eng-50, Columbia Serial No. 4-L-105.
6. Report "Analysis of Thermal Diffusion Separation Data" by Karl Cohen and W. I. Thompson dated 3 September 1943, Contract W-7405-eng-50, Columbia Serial No. 4-R-104.
7. Letter from Dr. Urey to W. K. Lewis dated 4 September 1943, in which use of thermal diffusion method for low stages is discussed. Columbia Serial No. L-260.





SECRET

5/3/45

Joe - Have JD discuss

Leo question w/ Farrell  
Folman, & Lavender and

Give me rec on Tues <sup>if possible</sup> as to

What we should do -

Also how about Leo's <sup>(invention)</sup> patent  
problems and his letter  
to the Pres -

Jim Groves

28 May  
all agree he should be kept on the  
payroll, <sup>discontinued</sup> as it may be  
JW



SECRET

This document consists of 2 pages.  
No. of 2 copies, series 8

P. O. Box 1663  
Santa Fe, New Mexico

July 2, 1945

Dr. Leo Szilard  
P. O. Box 5207  
Chicago 80, Illinois

Dear Szilard:

Since our discussion I have spent some time thinking about your objections to an immediate military use of the weapon we may produce. I decided to do nothing. I should like to tell you my reasons.

First of all let me say that I have no hope of clearing my conscience. The things we are working on are so terrible that no amount of protesting or fiddling with politics will save our souls.

This much is true: I have not worked on the project for a very selfish reason and I have gotten much more trouble than pleasure out of it. I worked because the problems interested me and I should have felt it a great restraint not to go ahead. I can not claim that I simply worked to do my duty. A sense of duty could keep me out of such work. It could not get me into the present kind of activity against my inclinations. If you should succeed in convincing me that your moral objections are valid, I should quit working. I hardly think that I should start protesting.

But I am not really convinced of your objections. I do not feel that there is any chance to outlaw any one weapon. If we have a slim chance of survival, it lies in the possibility to get rid of wars. The more decisive a weapon is the more surely it will be used in any real conflict and no agreements will help.

Our only hope is in getting the facts of our results before the people. This might help to convince everybody that the next war would be fatal. For this purpose actual combat-use might even be the best thing.

And this brings me to the main point. The accident that we worked out this dreadful thing should not give us the responsibility of having a voice in how it is to be used. This responsibility must in the end be shifted to the people as a whole and that can be done only by making the facts known. This is the only cause for which I feel entitled in doing something: the necessity of lifting the secrecy at least as far as the broad issues of our work are concerned. My understanding is that this will be done as soon as the military situation permits it.

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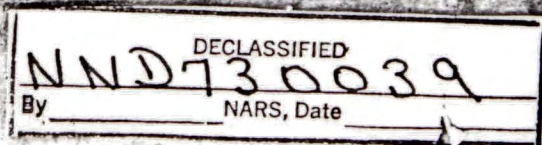
All this may seem to you quite wrong. I should be glad if you showed this letter to Eugene and to Franck who seem to agree with you rather than with me. I should like to have the advice of all of you whether you think it is a crime to continue to work. But I feel that I should do the wrong thing if I tried to say how to tie the little toe of the ghost to the bottle from which we just helped it to escape.

With best regards.

Yours,

/s/ E. Teller

/t/ E. Teller





**SECRET**

MUC-AC-1308

June 4, 1945

To: Colonel K. D. Nichols <sup>201</sup>

From: Arthur H. Compton <sup>201</sup>

In re: Tentative Explanation of the Interview with Justice Byrnes <sup>640</sup>

1. I have been asked why scientists from the Metallurgical Project have gone, without my knowledge or authorization, to present considerations relative the Project before a representative of the President. While I have not yet had an opportunity to interview the scientists concerned, it may be useful to explain the background of this interview. The scientists undoubtedly realized that they were going outside of established channels, and they may have run a risk of violating their oath of secrecy. I believe the reason for their action is that with regard to this Project their responsibility to the nation is prior to and broader than their responsibility to the Army, and they felt that a situation had developed in which they could not perform their duty to the nation working through me or through the Army.

2. As far as I am aware, there was not intention in this interview to criticize the Army's conduct of the Project. Rather it was felt that the Army was in the impossible position of being held responsible for doing a task which it had neither power nor authorization to perform. It was presumably believed that independent comments by technical experts in the field might aid the Army in getting promptly the action which it desired.

Now that the interim advisory committee has been appointed by the Secretary of War, and that its scientific panel has been created to whom the scientists have access, most of the difficulties which I shall describe have apparently been taken care of.

3. The scientists have a very strong feeling of responsibility to society regarding the use of the new powers they have released. They first saw the possibility of making the new powers available to human use. Because they have lived with the ideas more continuously, they have perhaps felt more keenly than others the enormous possibilities that would thus be opened for man's welfare or destruction. In a time of extreme national and world emergency they urged the development of these powers to practical usefulness in order to ensure the survival of the defenders of human freedom. With the help of the Army in placing at their disposal the nation's resources and industrial might, they have developed their ideas to the stage of the first important application. They consider that the wisdom with which this first application is made is a matter of enormous significance to mankind, as is also the manner in which further developments are guided. Having first conceived the idea, then having

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Colonel K. D. Nichols - Page 2

persuaded the nation to undertake its development, and finally having successfully made the new powers available for use, the scientists cannot be satisfied to remain without assurance that all possible is being done to ensure their wise application and future development.

4. The fact is that the scientists who were responsible for initiating and developing this project have felt that its control has been taken from them, that they are uninformed with regard to plans for its use and its development, and that they have had little assurance that serious consideration of its broader implications is being given by those in a position to guide national policy. The scientists will be held responsible, both by the public and by their own consciences, for having faced the world with the existence of the new powers. The fact that the control has been taken out of their hands makes it necessary for them to plead the need for careful consideration and wise action to someone with authority to act. There is no other way in which they can meet their responsibility to society.

5. The statements may be questioned that, (a) control of the project has been taken from the scientists, (b) they are uninformed regarding plans for the use and future development of the new powers, and (c) they have little assurance that serious consideration of its broader implications is being given by those in a position to guide national policy.

(a) Complete responsibility for the development of the project for the present war has been placed by the Secretary of War in the hands of the U. S. Engineers, following policies formulated by the "Military Policy Committee." Who is responsible for the immediate use of the new powers, the scientists do not know; but it is certainly not they. With regard to future developments, the Military Policy Committee some months ago indicated that it could take no responsibility. The recommendations of the scientists in the Metallurgical Project regarding the minimum national requirements for forward looking research in their field were drastically cut in the budget allowed by the Army - apparently because there was no one who could assume responsibility for future developments.

(b) With regard to plans for the immediate use of the new powers, requirements of military security demand that no information be given to those not directly responsible for their use. This is well understood and accepted by the scientists. They want, however, to be assured that those who determine the use of these powers are in a position to take into consideration both the technical and human aspects of the problem. This is why they have been concerned by situation (c).

With regard to plans for the future development, inability to obtain any governmental consideration of a research program looking toward post-war development of the field, while the government prevents any considerable independent research along this line, indicated to the scientists that no adequate

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Colonel K. D. Nichols - Page 3

attention to the future of the Project is being given. The importance of the Project's continued growth as an assurance of the nation's safety is perhaps more clearly realized by the scientists than by any others. They see an imminent danger that the present organized work will disintegrate unless prompt assurance is forthcoming regarding its continuation into the post-war period.

They have been told for some months that a committee was to be formed which would have power to make plans for the post-war aspects of our Project. The continued delays in forming this committee, unavoidable though they may have been, has made the scientists anxious lest the matter be postponed until serious delays in the development of the future possibilities would be caused. The scientists' visit occurred just before it was possible to let them know that the committee had indeed been formed.

(c) Partly because of secrecy restrictions, it has not been permissible to inform the scientists with regard to the care with which certain high officers of the Government have considered the implications of our Project. Three items have caused serious questions as to the adequacy of Washington's attention to these matters:

(1) Many months ago a "Prospectus on Nucleonics," carefully prepared by members of the Metallurgical Project, was submitted through regular channels, with particular request that it come to the attention of the Military Policy Committee, of such military officers as might be concerned, and of Messrs. K. T. Compton and Frank Jewett as influential representatives of science. After some months we were informed that the report could not be transmitted to these individuals. No evidence appeared that the prospectus came to the attention of anyone outside of the U. S. Engineers until a special request came for several copies about ten days ago. When it was learned a few weeks ago that I have not been free to discuss the implications of this project with my brother, there was very serious concern within the Metallurgical Laboratory staff, because it indicated clearly that they had no means of contact with scientists outside of the Project.

(2) Last autumn leading members of the Metallurgical Project submitted to me a memorandum requesting that some information regarding our work be made public in order to prepare the way for effective international negotiations. This report I passed on to the District informally for comments, indicating that though I considered the specific recommendations unwise, there was a real point to the request for careful attention to what can be done at the peace table. Though I assured the signers of this memo that its contents would come to the attention of the higher levels at Washington, I never received indication that this actually occurred.

(3) At the San Francisco Conference we received no indication that the American delegates were adequately instructed about our situation with regard to the new weapons, or in fact that anyone with scientific understanding was present for consultation at the Conference. General Groves had told several of our

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Colonel K. D. Nichols - Page 4

scientists at Chicago about his discussions of these matters with members of the State Department. Reports, however, of the comments made by the Secretary of State after he had heard of our new weapons indicated that his appreciation of the problem was so limited as possibly to serve as a hazard to the country's welfare.

6. To whom then were the scientists to go in order to obtain an effective consideration of their views on the use and further development of the Project? With some difficulty I kept the men satisfied to let me present their point of view through regular channels, until I received notice that the Military Policy Committee and the Manhattan District could take no responsibility for the longer range developments. While I indicated my hope that within six to twelve months this situation would be rectified, I was unable to give satisfactory assurance that any authority would be set up to take this responsibility. The difficulty was clearly not one for which the Army was responsible, nor was it one which the Army could correct.

7. The first move was my strong presentation to General Groves and Colonel Nichols of the urgent need for support of our minimum forward looking program, and my request to set up an authority that could act on this program before April first. Unavoidable events made such action impossible. I myself let the matter rest in the hands of General Groves.

The second move was made independently by Urey, who presented these matters to Dr. Bush in an extended interview in April. Toward the end of April, Urey and I had also an informal conversation of these points with Dr. Bush, at which were considered in particular the formation of the new committee by the Secretary of War.

In the meantime, recognizing the urgent need for prompt action, Szilard completely on his own responsibility took steps to present the matter first to President Roosevelt and later to President Truman. It was evidently these steps which culminated in the interview with Justice Byrnes on May 30 (?). Had it been possible for me to advise him that I should have an opportunity to present the case in the regular way, I believe that he would have placed the matter in my hands. The "Top Secret" classification of my invitation to appear before the committee made it impossible for me to pass on this information.

8. It appears evident to me that it was their serious concern at the prolonged failure to obtain authoritative consideration of the broader and longer range implications of the Project that led Messrs. Szilard, Urey and Bartky to take direct action.

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Copy No. 000, Series KDN

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

June 4, 1945

To: Colonel K. D. Nichols

From: Arthur H. Compton

Off the record, I regret that in presenting the background of the scientists interview with Justice Byrnes, it has been necessary for me to speak in the same way for both Szilard and Bartky. The background is the same in both cases. It is true, nevertheless, that whereas I have never been able to control Szilard's actions in matters such as this, I am confident that had Bartky sought my advice in connection with the Washington trip, he would not have gone. It is very probable that he considered his attendance important to keep some control over the statements which Szilard would make and to advise me with regard to the matter of the nature of the proceedings.

I can see no opportunity to discuss this matter with Bartky during the next week. I am, however, requesting him to let me know what happened on this trip and shall pass on to you what I learn as soon as possible.

KT

/s/ A.H.

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Copy No. / of 2, Series A.



**ARMY SERVICE FORCES  
UNITED STATES ENGINEER OFFICE  
MANHATTAN DISTRICT  
OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE**

IN REPLY  
REFER TO

EIDME

5 June 1945

MEMORANDUM to: Major General L. R. Groves.

1. Inclosed, for your information, are two memoranda dated 4 June given to me by Dr. Compton after I had discussed with him Mr. Bartky's visit in Washington. The paper referred to in paragraph 5 (c)(2) was forwarded to you by memorandum dated 25 November 1944.

2. Dr. Compton will give me more information concerning this visit after he has had a chance to interview Mr. Bartky.

*K. D. Nichols*  
K. D. NICHOLS,  
Colonel, Corps of Engineers,  
District Engineer.

2 Incls.:

1. Cy. 1KDN Memo fm. AHC (6/4/45)
2. Cy. 2A Memo fm. AHC (6/4/45).

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## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DATE: *July 9, 1945*TO : *General Groves*FROM : *St Parish*SUBJECT: *Letter from Dr Teller to Leo Szilard.*

*Attached is letter which was  
transmitted to Szilard by courier.*

*Dr Teller's attitude is rather  
interesting and might furnish  
Szilard with a new approach, i.e.  
to attempt to get fellow scientists  
to stop work.*

*For your information.*



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This document consists of 1 pg.  
Copy 2 of 3, Series A.



**ARMY SERVICE FORCES  
UNITED STATES ENGINEER OFFICE  
MANHATTAN DISTRICT  
OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE  
P. O. Box E**

IN REPLY  
REFER TO **EDDMK**

4 March 1946

Subject: Leo Szilard

To: Major General L. R. Groves, P. O. Box 2610, Washington, D. C.

1. As of this date, Dr. Leo Szilard is still with the Metallurgical Laboratory. He has been in a status of leave of absence without pay since 1 December 1945.

2. Captain R. A. Lavender (USN) has requested that Dr. Szilard remain with the project until certain patent agreements have been signed.

3. These patent agreements have not yet been signed.

**K. D. NICHOLS,  
Brig. Gen., Corps of Engineers  
District Engineer**

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By	NARS, Date

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Copy 1 of 3, (ries A.)

ARMY SERVICE FORCES  
UNITED STATES ENGINEER OFFICE  
MANHATTAN DISTRICT  
OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE  
P. O. Box E

IN REPLY  
REFER TO

EIDMK

1 April 1946

Subject: Leo Szilard.

To: Major General L. R. Groves, P. O. Box 2610, Washington, D.C.

1. Dr. Leo Szilard is still in a status of leave without pay from the Metallurgical Laboratory.

2. Captain R. A. Lavender's office has indicated that seven patent applications requiring Dr. Szilard's signature are outstanding as of this date.

*K. D. Nichols*  
K. D. NICHOLS,  
Brigadier General, C. E.,  
District Engineer

*action  
on this*

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NND-730039	
By	NARS, Date

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*672 (Szilard Patent)*



IN REPLY  
REFER TO

EIDM CGD-1

ARMY SERVICE FORCES  
UNITED STATES ENGINEER OFFICE  
MANHATTAN DISTRICT  
CHICAGO AREA OFFICE  
P. O. BOX 6140 A  
CHICAGO 80, ILLINOIS

15 May 1946

Brig. Gen. K. D. Nichols,  
P. O. Box 2610,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear General Nichols:

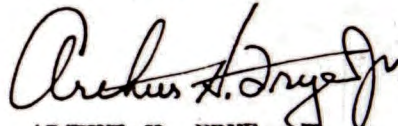
Inclosed herewith is a copy of a letter written by Dr. Daniels to Leo Szilard effectively terminating his employment as of 30 June 1946.

Szilard has put considerable pressure on Dr. Daniels to be more specific in this letter and to state the reason why he is not being taken on under the new contract. Word has reached him through some channel that the Manhattan District is the agency responsible for his being denied a new contract. Presumably, his information was more specific and probably named either or both yourself and General Groves.

Dr. Daniels has cooperated in his usual wholehearted manner in composing this letter and omitting any reference to the Army as being the cause for denying Szilard employment after 30 June 1946.

I am not at all certain that this letter will satisfy Szilard and it may be that he will press for further information as to why he is being denied employment. I have refrained to date from putting anything concerning this case in writing to Dr. Daniels and that will continue to be my policy unless I hear to the contrary from you.

Sincerely yours,



ARTHUR H. FRYE, JR.,  
Colonel, Corps of Engineers,  
Area Engineer.

1 Incl.:

Copy Ltr., 5/15/46 - to Gen H. S. 5/20.

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By	NARS, Date