

LOS ALAMOS
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO
P. O. BOX 1663

June 7, 1943

Memorandum to Brig. Gen. Groves

During your visit you asked Colonel Ashbridge to issue orders that no one, with the exception of the contractor's men, is to enter or leave the post without signing his name at the guard house. You will remember that we discussed the merits of this procedure in the past and that it seemed to us unsatisfactory to institute these measures at a time when several thousand essentially uncleared people had access to the post, and that by placing the emphasis on post rather than laboratory security the effects of this measure would tend to weaken the only security which we can effectively carry out at the present time.

It is, however, not the fact but the procedure that I should like to protest, and that for two reasons:

1. This is a security measure. You know that according to the Groves-Conant letter, security measures for civilian employees working in the Technical Area and for their families are to be determined by the laboratory. This measure was not in fact so determined. I regard that as a serious point.
2. In order to avoid confusion and to reduce difficulties between the guards and the post population it was agreed, and this perhaps you did not know, that no new rulings should be put into effect without first informing the population of the post. This also was not done.

In view of the above circumstances, I should like to request that the rule be rescinded and that the question of signing out at the gates be considered at a time when the post is not so over-run by extraneous personnel, unless you have urgent reasons for us to reconsider it now.

J. R. Oppenheimer
Director

JRO:pg
CC to Colonel Ashbridge,
Governing Board

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