Peyton Ford, Acting The Assistant to the Attorney General,
George T Washington, Assistant Solicitor General.

December 3, 1947

German specialists and scientists in the United States under the protective custody of the Joint Intelligence Objectives Agency

The attached proposed letter to the Director of the Joint Intelligence Objectives Agency, Joint Chiefs of Staff, requests from that agency certain information requested from the Department by the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in his memoranda of November 6 and 20, 1947, and forwards to the agency the memorandum dated November 6, 1947, which contains information concerning certain of the German scientists in the United States in the custody of the Army.

The Director desires certain further information concerning lists of the names of German scientists and their dependents presently in the United States in order to identify information concerning such persons which may be contained in the files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Although such persons are completely in the custody and control of the Armed Service Departments, it is apparently the view of Director Hoover, as it has consistently been the view of this Department, that in the interest of the internal security of this country the identity of the persons brought into the United States under this program of the Armed Service Departments should be fully disclosed to the FBI, so that it may check such persons with information contained in its security files.

The Director also has suggested that the Joint Intelligence Objectives Agency submit the names of German scientists and specialists to the Bureau before they are brought to the United States in order more adequately to insure the internal security of this country, for which, as the Director properly states, the Bureau is primarily responsible. This suggestion of the Director forms the basis of a request contained in the attached proposed letter. The Joint Intelligence Objectives Agency has advised that its procurement program with respect to foreign scientists terminated on September 30, 1947, and that only a few scientists who had been delayed would be imported into the United States thereafter.

The memorandum of the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation dated November 6, 1947, which is intended for enclosure with the proposed letter contains adverse information from FBI files concerning certain of the German scientists presently in the United States in the custody of the Army. It appears proper in the discharge of the responsibility of the Department

with respect to the general internal security of the United States that it furnish such information to the agency which, since it holds the persons involved in military custody, has assumed the responsibility with respect to the internal security of the country as it is affected by such persons. The Joint Intelligence Objectives Agency is advised in the attached proposed letter that the information contained in the memorandum of the Federal Bureau of Investigation is confidential.

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George T. Washington
Assistant Solicitor General