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WAR DEPARTMENT

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

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

27 August 1945

**Subject:** Investigation of Crop Damage at Lower Farms Neck, New Jersey.

**To:** The Commanding General, Army Service Forces, Room 5B07E, Pentagon Building, Washington, D. C.

1. At the request of the Secretary of War, the Department of Agriculture has agreed to cooperate in investigating complaints of crop damage attributed by the complainants to fumes from a plant operated in connection with the Manhattan Project. This plant is located at Lower Farms Neck, New Jersey, and is operated for the Government by the E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Company under a cost-plus-a-fixed-fee contract. If liability is imposed on the contractor, it is probable that the Government will be liable to reimburse the contractor for a major amount. Complaints have been received from parts of Salem and Gloucester Counties.

2. The chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils and Agricultural Engineering has determined that it will be impossible for the Department of Agriculture to carry out certain essential parts of the work. These are:

a. Air sampling and analysis at four or more points in the area where damage is alleged and in a control point outside the area.

b. Laboratory analysis of foliage, bark, and wood from the area and from control vegetation outside the area. (The kind of samples to be taken and from what location would be determined by the Department of Agriculture.)

c. Atmospheric pollution survey probably requiring the use of mobile equipment to define areas of fume concentrations, if any.

3. Three factors involved make it desirable that the Chemical Warfare Service perform the work outlined. First, the work is very difficult since the amounts which the Department of Agriculture requires to be measured are extremely small and it is anticipated that improvements on current techniques will have to be devised. Secondly, personnel of the Department of Agriculture who are to work on the project have expressed complete confidence in the Chemical Warfare Service and believe that with them the closest and most cordial relations can be maintained. Finally, work done by the Chemical Warfare Service would carry the greatest weight as evidence, if, as it is thought to be the case, law suits are started by the complainants.

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4. The plans suggested by the Department of Agriculture call for the sampling and analysis of vegetation at least twice during the remainder of the growing season, and if any evidence of fume damage is disclosed, an intensive study will be carried on during the growing season next year to determine the effects of fumes and to establish a basis for settlement with the injured parties. Such a program would require fumigation experiments in addition to air and vegetation analyses.

5. It is requested that the Chief of the Chemical Warfare Service be authorized and directed to carry on in cooperation with and under the general direction of the Department of Agriculture such work of the general type outlined above as may be determined by the Department of Agriculture to be necessary for the successful prosecution of their study.

L. H. GROVES,  
Major General, USA.

Distribution:

80 & cc - Addresses  
Cy #3 - Maj. G. A. Toney, N. Y.  
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STANDARD FORM NO. 64

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## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Maj. Gen. Leslie P. Groves

FROM : Major Clifford A. Tancy, Jr.

SUBJECT: Peach Crop Case

DATE: 15 August 45

1. Herewith, in duplicate, a draft of a letter to be sent by you to the Commanding General, Army Service Forces, directing the cooperation of the Chemical Warfare Service in investigating the alleged damage to New Jersey peach grovers.
2. Lt. Formel has obtained clearance from the Chemical Warfare Service.
3. If any changes of substance are made in the draft, request that it be returned to me for clearance with Chemical Warfare Service as to changes.

*Clifford A. Tancy, Jr.*  
Cliff, Jr.

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