


Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Boardman	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Parsons	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tamm	_____
Mr. Sizoo	_____
Mr. Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Holloman	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

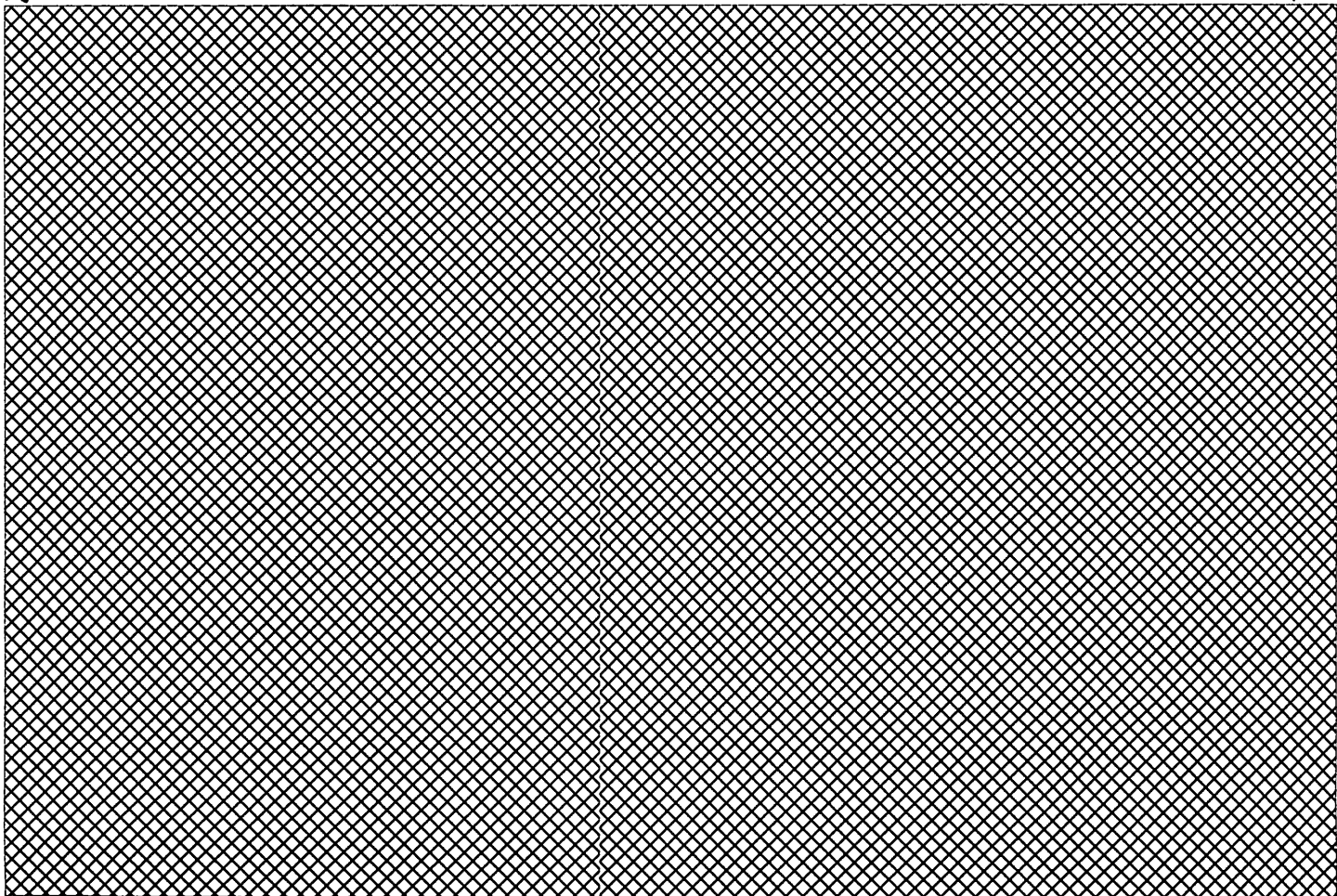
July 22, 1954

MR. NICHOLS:

b7D Per FBI

RE: ~~LOOKOUT~~ MOUNTAIN LABORATORY

Lookout Mountain Laboratory is located at 8935 Wonderland Avenue, Los Angeles, California. It employs approximately ^{130 CIVILIANS} ~~100~~, and it is a key facility for which the Air Force has responsibility. It is also a Class B AEC facility  This installation is on our master key facility list.



REW:rcw

(2 - 85-55-7-775 Referral/Consult
ENCLOSURE

The Director on April 14, 1953, wrote a memorandum (62-85557-618) reporting a conversation with Major General R. C. Partridge, Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2. The Director pointed out he received a call from Roger Kyes, Deputy Secretary of Defense, in which the latter discussed the abolishing of a laboratory presently operated by the Air Force. It was thought this conversation may have referred to Lookout Mountain Laboratory, and Mr. Harbo was to meet with people from G-2, ONI and OSI at 2:00 p. m., 4-15-53. (I did not locate what transpired this meeting.)

CHECK WITH LOS ANGELES:

ASAC Gearty of the Los Angeles Office advised me at 2:03 p. m. today as follows:

The Lookout Mountain Laboratory, located in an exclusive residential section of suburban Los Angeles, currently employs 37 military personnel and 130 civilians.

The laboratory prepares educational films on the atomic bomb for use by AEC and USAF personnel in training. The civilian employees are mostly skilled movie technicians and writers. They belong to guilds and unions.

Commanding Officer of the Air Force is Lieutenant Colonel James L. Gaylord; Main Security Officer is Major George S. Whitman; Assistant Security Officer is Captain Roy R. Claussen.

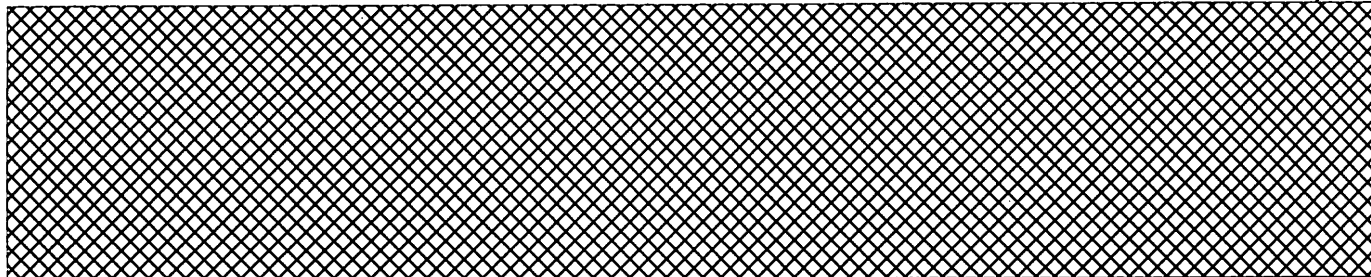
So far as the Los Angeles Office knows, there has been no Communist Party or subversive activity in the plant. Neither the Air Force nor AEC has furnished any information to the Los Angeles Office regarding union activity, strikes or contemplated strikes, Communist Party activity or any information whatsoever bearing upon the security or lack of security or activity at Lookout Mountain Laboratory.

b6 Per FBI

b7C

On 2-19-54 one [REDACTED] had employment at Lookout Mountain Laboratory complained of lack of security at the laboratory. When we interviewed her she stated only that the "mental attitude of Lieutenant Colonel Harvey" (then in command) was such that he could be a security risk if he had a nervous breakdown.

We interviewed Harvey. He characterized [REDACTED] who previously did unsatisfactory contract work for the Air Force. The Air Force denied her regular employment. Harvey stated she [REDACTED]



Confidential [REDACTED] said in January, 1952, that in [REDACTED] the laboratory, at least 6 people were "favorable to all causes." He explained they were openly sympathetic to such organizations as the Independent Progressive Party and to Henry Wallace.

PROBABLE REASON FOR JOE HOLT'S INQUIRY:

The Los Angeles Times issue of 6-22-54 carried a story captioned "Laboratory Complaints Answered By Air Force." The article pointed out that an Air Force representative had answered complaints from several local residents in the vicinity of 8935 Wonderland Avenue (locale of the Lookout Mountain Laboratory). The residents had complained the Laboratory was an eyesore, a nuisance and its presence depleted property value. They likewise complained of the traffic hazard it created, the number of people employed and in general decried the existence of a commercial enterprise in a residential section.

The Air Force representative pointed out the plant processed top priority film for AEC and had recently released the Eniwetok film. He pointed out the necessity for the armed guards, about which the citizens complained, and also pointed out the necessity for an electrical fence which the citizens complained constituted a hazard.

The article further pointed out that the Los Angeles City Councilman Earl D. Baker had said he received a telegram from Joe Holt in Washington advising that the local Air Force Commander (Lieutenant Colonel Gaylord) had been instructed to contact Baker and work out an amicable settlement regarding the presence of the plant and the citizens' objections.

Another story in the Los Angeles Times for 6-29-54 sets forth the results of the hearing called by Councilman Baker with Lieutenant Colonel Gaylord and representatives of various city departments plus two individuals, Bill Newcomb and Jaimie Monroe, who represented the 100 complaining property owners. The article pointed out that the property owners did not object to the operation of the laboratory but objected to the plant because it created a traffic hazard and constituted a nuisance. Lieutenant Colonel Gaylord was quoted as saying "New construction is finished and there will be no increase in personnel at the laboratory." He said also that through cooperation most of the objections could be removed.

ASAC Gearty said that even back as far as 1950 Los Angeles residents rapped the installation claiming it was a nuisance, an eyesore and ought to be removed from the residential section.