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MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. DULLES

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VIA : Gen. Cabell

1. I have just been advised of the proposed action to be taken in the case of Messrs. Drum and Gottlieb and feel that in view of my position and responsibilities, it is my duty to express an opinion in this matter.

2. I feel that a formal reprimand in this case would be an injustice since reprimands are applicable to those guilty of negligence, disloyalty, or willful acts detrimental to an organization, rather than to those involved in difficult circumstances caused by mischance or factors beyond our control. In this case, I believe that both men concerned acted in good faith and with the desire to advance their work. Whether they lacked the foresight or wisdom to grasp all the possibilities that might occur is, of course, debatable.

3. If such action were taken in the tradition of the sea where the commander is automatically at fault in case of failure, then it would be in order to apply the reprimand to both Dr. Gibbons and myself.

4. I sincerely hope that this matter will be again reviewed, not only in the interest of justice, but also in the interest of maintaining the spirit of initiative and enthusiasm so necessary to our work.

LUIS deFLOREZ  
Research Chairman

TSS/OC:ldaf/jel (2 February 1954)

Memo for Record: Original returned to Wm deFlorez on 10 Feb, w/note from Gen Cabell (on the cover sheet) as follows:  
"Your request acceded to."

km.