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ROBERTS & MANDER CORPORATION

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HATBORO 1040

18 MILES NORTH OF PHILADELPHIA HATBORO, PA.

August 27, 1948

Roberts & Mander - kex

Mr. Frank Giaccio
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
70 Columbus Avenue
New York, N. Y.

~~MATERIALS #4~~

Dear Mr. Giaccio:

This follows my letter of August 20th, in which I promised to advise you of our thoughts concerning beryllium, after I had completed a series of contacts with both Government and private groups and had an opportunity to evaluate the possibilities of using our process from the point of view of industrial research. By this, I mean the possibility of the research leading into substantial production of parts. I believe I mentioned some of the contacts to you when I was in your office, and that we still had more to make.

It is my opinion now that as far as beryllium is concerned, I cannot visualize the possibility of large production runs of parts, because it is one of those very scarce elements, and so far, the applications would resolve themselves into tailor-made or jobbing type of products. Metallurgical requirements, in my mind, are a further limiting factor in our considering beryllium as of top priority. These technical requirements are headed by a request for ductility. Furthermore, we would also face immediate and severe competition by laboratories well-established and who are working with the same form of material that we would have; namely beryllium powder.

I sincerely believe, however, from work which we have recently completed with other metals, that we could improve the density and eliminate the large voids, so that the remaining porosity was finely dispersed.

I am, therefore, compelled to consider beryllium as a project subordinate to several others. If we can perform some further experiments with equipment developed for more major projects, we will do so at our own expense. Any results and/or samples resulting therefrom, we will pass on to you.

I hope you will not consider my recommendation as wanting to hold out on the Atomic Energy Commission. It is far from that. We want to be of as much assistance as possible to any Government agency, but we must look at each project for its industrial advantages. I am sure you can appreciate my personal position in making this recommendation, especially since I, at one time, was so intimately associated with beryllium and atomic energy work. You may rest assured that I will keep you in touch with any further thoughts I may have on this matter.

Very sincerely yours,

ROBERTS AND MANDER CORPORATION

Claire C. Balke

CLAIRE C. BALKE
Director of Research

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AUG 31 1948

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