"There were ten researchers in Farm Hall,

They were considered terribly harmfull.

At the Last Judgment

They did not appear, for they were still sitting in Farm Hall."

This Limmerick was written by Carl Friedrich von Weizsäcker in the fall of 1945 - precisely at Farm Hall a well-protected country house of the British secret service near Cambridge, where ten German atomic researchers had been interned for six months after the end of World War II as "Guest of His Majesty" and systematically taped. The aim of this intelligence operation was to find out whether the Allies' fear of a German atomic bomb was justified and how "harmful" German research in this field really had been; it was also hoped that they could profit from German specialist knowledge and still use it for the development of their own atomic bomb. However, it became clear very quickly that Germany was far from building an atomic bomb and had failed even in the development of a uranium machine or reactor. The wiretap protocols are not only a document of this failure, but also an impressive contemporary document about the life, motives and morals of scientists in the Third Reich and of technocratic elites in general; at the same time, they provide important information about the myth-making about the German atomic bomb, which continues to have an effect today.