

~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~

Serial: 0303

17 May 52

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Dr. Stewart S. Cairns
 Chairman, Department of Mathematics
 University of Illinois
 Urbana, Illinois

Dear Dr. Cairns:

I have devoted considerable time to studying the Special Communications Advisory Group (SCAG) Report which was submitted to me on 17 March 1952 and which I found not only quite interesting but also very useful.

The five principal recommendations made in the Report have been given special attention and I have directed that these recommendations or parts of them which can be carried out as matters entirely within my responsibility are to be implemented without delay and to the maximum practicable degree.

I was favorably impressed with the recommendation that a separate research organization be established within this Agency and have directed that a detailed plan and program for its establishment and operation be prepared for me by a special group in this Agency, assisted by Dr. Mautner and Dr. Fetter. I trust that it will be possible to consult with you on various aspects of the plan after it has been elaborated.

In my opinion the principal purpose for which SCAG was assembled has been successfully accomplished. That purpose was to look into one of the most important problems before this Agency, to render an opinion as to whether we are employing our resources to best advantage on the problem, and to recommend further action or steps which might hasten the solution. I feel confident that the recommendations contained in the SCAG Report will be conducive to that end.

Aside from the foregoing, another important purpose was to acquaint certain top-flight mathematicians and electronics engineers with our work and to evoke their interest in it so that we might call individually upon them for occasional advice or assistance on certain aspects of our problems. I believe that this secondary aim has also been accomplished.

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With the completion of the task set before SCAG, certain members have indicated a belief that the group should be reorganized and reestablished on a different basis. I share this view and am having prepared a new charter accordingly. When this has been done, I shall probably communicate with you at an early date with a view toward ascertaining your interest in further participation in SCAG affairs.

In closing I wish to express my earnest appreciation of the time, thought, and effort which you personally gave to make the work and deliberations of the first SCAG so fruitful.

Sincerely,

15/
RALPH J. CANINE
Major General, US Army
Director, Armed Forces Security Agency

W.F.Friedman/ebv/14, May 52
Consultant/Ext. 60493

Copies furnished:

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This letter also sent to:

- 0304 - Mr. John H. Howard
- 0305 - Mr. John C. MacPherson
- 0306 - Mr. Dean Post
- 0307 - Mr. W. P. Robertson
- 0308 - Mr. Claude E. Shannon
- 0309 - Mr. Edwin A. Spiekerman
- 0310 - Mr. Charles B. Tompkins
- 0311 - Mr. John von Neumann

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