

~~SECRET~~310 Second Street, S.E.  
Washington 3, D. C.

2 July 1954

Mr. Boris C. W. Hagelin

Dear Boris:

Thank you very much for your letter of 21 June, in response to mine of 15 June.

First, I want to say that we are certainly very sorry if the decision on the sale of the M-209's gave you some pain because, as you indicate, you had started certain actions based upon previous information. I can only offer our very sincere apology and I wish to reiterate that the serious difficulties which led to the decision were entirely unforeseen. Those difficulties involve certain legal technicalities connected with the laws governing the disposal of surplus government property. I can in this connection answer the point which you said you could not quite understand in my last letter, namely, my statement that we are afraid that the M-209 machines might get into wrong hands. I meant by this that if we were to conform to the laws governing the disposal of surplus property (and, as it turned out, we would have had to conform), we should have had to call for bids and accept the offer of the highest bidder. Now, under such circumstances, the highest bidder might not turn out to be you or your representative; he might buy a lot of machines at a cheap price and then sell them at a low price - to gamblers, smugglers, etc., that is, people whose use of the machines would only make trouble for our police authorities. That's all I meant by "wrong hands." I hope this will explain the question in your mind.

[REDACTED]

By all means send us one of your tape control devices for the M-209, for we are still interested in seeing how you would perform the modification and compare same with our own.

I'm very sorry to learn that you feel rather worn out and I hope you will get a real vacation this summer. I can therefore well understand your reluctance to come to London just for a friendly visit with me and will forgive you this time! Nor do I think it will be necessary for Boris Junior to come but in case you or he should wish to communicate with me I append a London address. I will be there from 9 July to about 26 July. After that I expect to come home directly but in case you or Bo should feel that a visit to Zug would be of real interest in connection with seeing some new model, I could come for a visit there for a few days.

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Thank you for letting us keep it another month or two.

With most cordial greetings to you and love to Annie, I am,

Sincerely,

London address:

c/o Colonel Barton S. Pulling  
Flat 705  
7 North Audley Street  
London W1