

28 APR 1952

Colonel Charles P. Nicholas, USA  
Deputy Head of Department of Mathematics  
United States Military Academy  
West Point, New York

Dear Colonel Nicholas:

Thank you very much for your letter of 22 April.

Mrs. Nicholas and you are most kind to ask me to be your house-guest while at West Point. I accept with pleasure, at the same time hoping that neither of you will do anything on my behalf which may disturb the daily routine of a well-organized household.

It is a bit difficult for me at the moment to decide on what method of travel to use, but whether by rail or by private automobile, I will plan to arrive early enough on the 27th to do what you suggest. Thank you very much for the invitation to a leisurely pre-lecture dinner, which in the interest of my audience should be a rather modest repast so far as concerns my needs. But I wish to add that I can view with equanimity the consumption of considerable quantities of food by others, while partaking somewhat sparingly myself, since I have been trying to keep my weight static for about two years now and have adjusted to the sight of others who do not have to exercise some restraint, or if they should, do not.

Thank you, too, for the invitation to the small dinner party on the evening of May 28th. I shall look forward with pleasure to meeting some of the faculty members and their wives.

Your advice regarding attire is much appreciated and I will be guided accordingly.

With reference to the size of the slides I shall use, they are of the glass type,  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " x 4". I should have a lectern with a lamp to enable me to consult my notes, and a pointer of some sort. If you have an electrically-operated gadget I can use to signal the projector-operator when to shift to the next slide, that will be fine; if not, I shall bring a "cricket" with me.

The contents of this paragraph apply only to the lecture to be given to the Third Class. It has been my experience that my listeners like to examine some interesting exhibits I often bring along. If you wish me to do so, I will be glad to follow this practice and should have

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either on the platform or on the floor immediately in front of it a table, say 10 square feet in area. In this connection, does it happen that the Academy possesses one of our Converter M-209 machines? If not, I will bring one, for if I remember correctly it is mentioned in one of the assignments in the course on statistics and it would probably be of interest to the cadets to examine or to operate one.

As a specific title for the morning lectures I suggest, one of the following, to be selected by you:

- (1) "Cryptology, or the secret weapon that helps commanders win battles and prevent defeats."
- (2) "The influence of cryptologic power on history."
- (3) "Cryptanalytic power, or how to win wars and influence battles."

The proponents of other and perhaps more spectacular weapons would no doubt reject the sort of thesis implied by these titles, as being a gross exaggeration, but I hope I will be forgiven for indulging in my particular fantasy, even though I will not be able fully to prove my thesis in the course of the lecture. But then I can always take refuge behind the secrecy curtain and say that the rules established by higher authority will not permit me to prove the proposition beyond all shadow of doubt!

The news about General and Mrs. Gillmore was quite interesting and I am glad to learn that he is back safely. In the short time that he was in command of the Army Security Agency I came to have a high regard for him.

I want to thank you for your closing remarks about my forthcoming talks and for your courtesy in offering local transportation arrangements. Looking forward to an interesting and pleasant visit, I am,

Sincerely,

WILLIAM F. FRIEDMAN  
Consultant

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