

~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~~~SECRET~~

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Meeting of 6 December 1951

The meeting came to order at 1000 in the Control Room of building B, A.H.S. It was decided to take the second half of the agenda first.

1. Report of the committee on new members.

The committee consists of

H. T. Engstrom  
J. G. McPherson  
H. P. Robertson

The committee recommended, and the Group voted, that the following be invited to join when they are cleared.

*Miller*  
*Engstrom*

— Prof. Saunders MacLane	<i>Cleared</i>
— Mr. John Coombs	<i>Cleared</i>
— Prof. Marshall Stone	
— Mr. Ralph Palmer	<i>Cleared</i>
— Dr. J. Forester	
— Prof. Berkeley Rosner.	
<i>Samuel S. Wilks</i>	<i>Cleared</i>

Mr. Coombs and Prof. MacLane are already cleared.

After some discussion about the need for a vacuum tube expert it was decided this need could be met by employing Dr. Skellet as a consultant.

2. The Mission of SCAG.

The mission is open to change at the suggestion of AFSA. A subcommittee is to be appointed to expand the statement of the mission, the members to be determined by agreement between Dr. Engstrom and Mr. Rowlett. Action on this was postponed.

3. The Organization of SCAG.

The members of SCAG are of two kinds, mathematicians and engineers. They will ordinarily meet together. New members will be indoctrinated at special meetings, which will be planned by the membership committee.

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## 4. Intercept problems.

The problems connected with intercept, including traffic handling, should be studied by SCAG. A special program was planned to visit Vint Hill or Cheltenham, including presentations by Dr. Tordella or Mr. D. Shepard. Capt. Harper is to make the arrangements.

## 5. The Tompkins Proposal.

A letter from Dr. Tompkins to the chairman was read in which he proposed that a contract be set up between C.I.A. and the RAND Corporation to do basic research on cryptology. A long discussion followed. The Hartwell type projects were considered as a possibility. Tompkins proposal was interpreted to mean "a contract between some fiscal agent acting for AFSA and some contractor capable of doing mathematical research". It was recommended that AFSA prepare a list of potential problems and contractors. The chairman is to recommend to the Director AFSA that basic research be considered as an objective on its own, with ALBATROSS a separate problem.

6. The "self-wiring" rotor, a misnomer, was taken up first (at 0900) on 7 December. Dr. Eachus exhibited a laboratory model of an electronic analogue of a wheel which could make a substitution on a coded letter in 6 microseconds. There was great interest and some discussion as to whether production should be started now or further testing made. SCAG will attempt to make an evaluation.

7. VIERNE was described in more detail than previously, and the use of the new rotor in this device was considered.

8. The present status of Roberts' work was described. His simple scheme of replacing negative elements by zero before reprojecting was thought to be naive. Instead a coordination of the different offsets should be arranged at the earliest opportunity.

9. Formulation of a problem for SCAG to work on. A generalized problem was discussed. The feeling was that more opportunity for study is needed. It was suggested that at the next meeting a study room be set up with materials available to SCAG members to read. Mr. Raven is to see that these materials are available. A bibliography is to be prepared listing applicable papers.

10. The next meeting is to be the special meeting of 9 January. The next regular meeting will be Wednesday, 5 March, 1000 A.M., at A.H.S.