

SCAG file

(Off/Director Letterhead)

16 April 1952

Dr. E. J. Kelly  
President, Bell Telephone  
Laboratories, Inc.  
460 West Street  
New York 14, New York

Dear Dr. Kelly:

Thank you for your letter of 7 April concerning  
Dr. Shannon. I am most grateful to know that you  
were prepared to make Dr. Shannon's services avail-  
able to us but very sorry to learn of his family  
situation which makes it impossible for him to  
assist us at the present time.

While it is true there are other mathematicians  
in the group of which Dr. Shannon is a member (and we  
are now calling on them for considerable portions of  
their time in consultation), I feel that Dr. Shannon's  
qualifications are such that he cannot be replaced on  
this particular problem.

I sincerely hope, as soon as Dr. Shannon's  
situation has improved sufficiently to permit his  
absence from home for one month, he will be able to  
assist us in solving this extremely urgent problem.

Sincerely,

WALTER S. GIBBY  
Major General, U. S. Army  
Director

Friedman/cby/14 Apr 52/493  
Rewritten in Off/DIA/PLA/  
Twp/13 Apr 52

Comeback Copy for Mr. FRIEDMAN

Serial:

Dr. M. J. Kelly, President  
Bell Telephone Laboratories, Inc.  
463 West Street  
New York 14, New York

Dear Dr. Kelly:

Thank you very much for your letter of 7 April 1952, concerning Dr. Shannon. I was gratified to note that you were prepared to make his services available to us, and was therefore all the more sorry to note further on in the letter that because of his family situation his services cannot become available to us at this time.

It is true that there are other mathematicians in the group of which Dr. Shannon is a member. We are now calling on them for considerable portions of their time in consultation on a problem which is of such a nature that its solution requires all the high-caliber talent that can be applied. I feel that Dr. Shannon's qualifications are such that he cannot be replaced in this connection, but only supplemented.

I realize that Dr. Shannon's services are also of great value to your organization, but urgent considerations of National Defense warrant my seeking the best possible talent for the special problem mentioned. I shall continue to hope, therefore, that as soon as his family situation has clarified, you will permit Dr. Shannon to devote a continuous month to the problem for which we desire his assistance.

Sincerely,

RAKEN J. CANINE  
Major General, US Army  
Director, Armed Forces Security Agency

W.F.Friedman/ebv/14 Apr 52  
Consultant/60493