

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

*OO (has seen), etc*  
*OOT*

*Jan*

*8 May*  
*I spoke to Shannon today on*  
*the phone and he appeared open to*  
*persuasion. He said he would reserve*  
*judgment until he could learn*  
*more of the problem and determine whether*  
*or not it is something*  
*to which he felt he*  
*could contribute. I*  
*agreed to send an summary*  
*to explain matters to him*  
*as soon as his clearance*  
*is OK*

7 May 1951

Captain J. N. Wenger, USN  
Armed Forces Security Agency  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Captain Wenger:

I am enclosing herewith a copy of General Smith's letter  
to Dr. Kelly of Bell Laboratories regarding Dr. Claude E.  
Shannon. I hope very much that this letter will succeed in  
its purpose

Sincerely yours,  
*[Signature]*  
Kingman Douglas

Enclosure  
copy of letter to  
Dr. M. J. Kelly

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Washington 25, D. C.

May 4, 1951

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

Dear Dr. Kelly:

Although I am well aware of the patriotic contribution which you and your Company are already making in solving the many problems presented to you by the United States Government, I must make a personal request of you in a matter of the most urgent concern and importance to the security of the United States.

In attempting to find a solution to an especially vital problem confronting us at this time, we urgently need the assistance of Dr. Claude E. Shannon of your Company who, we are informed on the best authority, is the most eminently qualified scientist in the particular field concerned. The extent of his services necessary to accomplish the objective can only be determined after a preliminary examination. If his services could be made available for this purpose on a basis satisfactory to both you and Dr. Shannon, I will be deeply grateful.

I fully realize that even his temporary absence will be a great inconvenience to your organization and you may be sure that only the most compelling reason would cause me to make this request.

Dr. Vannevar Bush and Dr. Ralph K. Potter are informed of the project.

Sincerely,

/s/

WALTER B. SMITH  
Director