

CIP-DEV

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER  
WASHINGTON

July 24, 1931

MEMORANDUM TO: Executive Officer (TIBU Research & Development Division).

1. According to the last progress report of the laboratories at Ft. Monmouth, the development of the cipher machine, funds for which became available on July 1, 1930, was but 20 per cent completed by April 30, 1931.

2. This Division regards the development of this cipher apparatus as of prime importance not only to the Signal Corps but to the whole Army, as well as to the various larger administrative offices of the military establishment. It believes that this development should be prosecuted much more vigorously than has thus far been the case.

3. The recent visit of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, to this office, during which over an hour's conference was devoted to a discussion of cipher machines and their development, leads this Division to believe that the General Staff is vitally interested in such a project as is now being carried on in this connection, and that the Staff deems the completion, as soon as possible, of the development of a cipher machine as highly advisable.

4. During the recent conference between Mr. Graham and Mr. Friedman, on the occasion of Mr. Graham's visit to this office last week, it was reiterated by the former that this development can be pursued only as vigorously as the low priority accorded this project permits, it now being near the tail end of all wire projects assigned to the laboratories.

5. For the foregoing reasons it is urgently recommended that the priority now accorded this project be changed, and that the project be granted as high a priority as is consistent with the development of other projects of similar importance.

D. M. Crawford,  
Major, Signal Corps.