

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~Serial: 0795
11 Dec. 52~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~

Professor John von Neumann
The Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Professor von Neumann:

There is inclosed for your information a copy of a document dealing with the mission and functions of our new Advisory Board which replaces the former body called the Special Cryptologic Advisory Group (SCAG).

Your participation in the deliberations and work of SCAG greatly contributed to its effectiveness. I realize how pressed you are for time and energy to answer the many demands made by other organizations seeking your counsel and aid. Nevertheless, I extend to you my urgent invitation to become a member of our new advisory Board, under the chairmanship of Prof. Cairns, and I sincerely hope you will be in a position to accept.

The new Board will be quite limited in its membership. In fact, I expect its number not to exceed ten, all to be top-level experts. There will also be panels to assist the Board, so that the various areas in our field of interest may be adequately covered. One of the items for the agenda for the initial meeting of the Board, tentatively scheduled to be held on or about 26 January 1953, deals with the matter of determining the number and composition of these panels. As to the composition of the Board itself, at the moment I can say that I am extending an invitation to Prof. H. P. Robertson, and to Prof. S. S. Wilks, of Princeton. There will also be a member representing the Research and Development Board, who temporarily will be Mr. Edwin A. Speakman. In addition I plan to have as members of the Board one or two specialists in the general field of wire, cable, and radio communication engineering, a specialist in the electronics field, and one in the field of high-speed analytical machinery.

In giving consideration to my invitation I will ask that you accept my assurance that you will not be called upon frequently to attend formal meetings of the Board. In fact, Prof. Cairns shares my earnest desire to limit the number of such meetings to two or three a year. We expect to place more emphasis upon individual consultation and this will mean that Board members will place themselves at our disposal only for such consultation as their own time and convenience affords.

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I hope to receive your acceptance of my invitation to become a member of our new Board and am looking forward to seeing you again on or about 26 January.

Sincerely,

J. M. WENGER
Rear Admiral, US Navy
Acting Director

Incl:
AFSA Reg. 20-10,
dtd 21 Aug 52.

cc: AG
C/S
V/DIR
CONS

M/R: Self-explanatory.

W. F. Friedman/60493/10 Dec 52

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