TOP-SECRET  SECURE INFORMATION

MAY 18 1953

SUBJECT: SCATP 1953

1. a. The symposium of a Special Committee Advising on Mathematical Problems (SCATP) was initiated in 1952 at the suggestion of the Armed Forces Security Agency Special Cryptologic Advisory Group (SCAG). It was held at the National Bureau of Standards, Institute for Numerical Analysis (INA), Los Angeles, California, during July and August 1952. It was attended by eight non-INA mathematicians for the entire time and six others for part of the time. Fifteen representatives of NSA also participated for short intervals. (Tab 1)

b. Stated in most general terms, the fundamental objective of SCATP is to investigate mathematical techniques potentially applicable to cryptography; the most important immediate objective in 1952 was the study of finite projective planes. One of the principal purposes of SCATP 1953 is to develop new mathematical techniques applicable to problems of discrete analysis. Some of the major problems in this field relate to high-grade wired-wheel cipher machines. One line of emphasis at SCATP will be aimed at developing techniques for successful attacks on machines of this type.

c. Mathematicians and high-speed computing machines are required to implement this program. Since the INA has adequate machines and suitable office space for mathematicians, and since Los Angeles has been a focal point for mathematicians desiring to do applied research during the summer, it was selected as the site for SCATP 1952. In addition, the Institute has experts in the field of discrete analysis who will contribute to the objectives of SCATP. No comparable location exists in the Department of Defense or in private industry.

d. The fiscal arrangements for the 1952 symposium were made through the National Bureau of Standards, Department of Commerce, by the Office of Naval Research, on behalf of the Director, NSA. The total cost of the 1952 symposium was $37,197, including $3552 for travel. NSA R&D funds were used for this purpose. (Tab 2)

2. a. Upon the recommendation of certain of the chief participants in the 1952 symposium, the Director, National Security Agency decided to hold a similar symposium in 1953.

b. Planning for SCATP 1953 began in October 1952, with the cooperation of ONR, the INA, and the Mathematics Department of UCLA. On 23 April 1953, the Director, NSA sent the Chief of Naval Research a letter stating that the estimated cost of SCATP 1953 was $70,000, which was considered reasonable, and that funds in that amount were being transferred by Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request. The cost of travel and other incidental expenses will bring the total estimated cost of SCATP for 1953 to about $75,000. (See Tab 2)
TOP-SECRET

Subject: SCAMP 1953

28 May 1953

The early in 1953, question was raised as to whether the recently
promulgated Presidential Directive aiming toward a reduction in the number
of government employees affected the SCAMP program. The Director, INT
sent a letter to the Secretary of Commerce, dated 2 March 1953, requesting
a favorable interpretation of the Presidential Directive so that the
SCAMP program could be carried out as planned. On 23 March 1953, the
reply, signed by Mr. Sheaffer, Acting Secretary of Commerce, was in the
affirmative. (Tab 3)

On 22 April 1953, Mr. Campagnone addressed a letter to the
appropriate division of OEC, requesting a transfer of funds to the Bureau
of Standards, for the purpose of holding the SCAMP 1953 meeting again at
the IBA, it having turned out to be unpracticable to hold it elsewhere.
(Tab 4)

On 4 April 1953, a memorandum from the Under Secretary of
Defense, Mr. Eves, to the Secretaries of the three Services and the Chair-
man, RCB required that specific approval of the SecDef be obtained for
the transfer of R&D funds to other government agencies. (Tab 5) On
29 April 1953, the Chairman, RCB, issued a memorandum setting forth pro-
cedure to be followed in submitting requests for such approval. (Tab 6)

The Chief of Naval Research sent his request on 7 May 1953
to the Navy Controller via the Chief of Naval Operations. (Tab 7) It
is understood that the Navy Controller has sent the request to the
Secretary of the Navy, who is to forward it to the Chairman, RCB. At
this writing the request is on its way to the Secretary of the Navy.

I recommend that you place this case personally before Mr. Eves
without waiting for the letter referred to in subparagraph 2f above to
reach him via the normal channels. If we wait until the letter arrives,
it may be too late, even if favorable, to get through with the program.
On the other hand, if Mr. Eves should withhold approval, there
would still be time to avail ourselves of Prof. Robertson’s offer to let us
use facilities at Caltech. Even though the letter will not be nearly as
favorable as those at IBA, we would at least have done our best to keep
faith with the eminent mathematicians whom we solicited to attend SCAMP
1953 and who have already made arrangements therefor.

WILLIAM P. FRIEDIAN
Special Assistant

7 Incls:
Tab 1 thru 7

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