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21 October 1954

Dear Josh:

PL 86-36/50 USC 3605

Dr. Sam Wilks, who is Professor of Statistics in the Department of Mathematics at Princeton University, and who is also on General Canine's Scientific Advisory Board, has a proposal I want to pass on to you.

Wilks has a very high opinion of [ ] originality and thinking in the field of mathematical statistics, and he would like to invite [ ] to come to Princeton to conduct a seminar on the subject for about six to eight weeks. Wilks realizes that [ ] would naturally have to be on a leave-without pay status during the time he would be at Princeton but Princeton could reimburse [ ] to that extent. However, there would remain the problem of transportation costs and Wilks therefore suggested that perhaps the Princeton visit could be combined with a useful visit to NSA, in which event the cost of [ ] transportation to the U.S. and return might be borne by NSA.

Do you think GCHQ would profit from a visit by [ ] to NSA, for say three or four weeks some time in the autumn of 1955? I have checked personally with R. A. Leibler of NSA-34, who tells me that he and his associates would welcome a visit of any duration by [ ]. This would be consistent with the present program of interchange of visits by working personnel.

I know that neither on your side nor on our side is it usual to ask for a specific person to come for a visit without a specific mission in mind; in fact, I realize that such a request would be unusual. But I feel that you will not think me brash in writing you personally on this subject if I tell you that I know that a formal proposal from the Director, GCHQ, to the Director, NSA, for a visit by [ ] would be warmly received here and that I feel sure we could take care of [ ] trans-oceanic travel. If your response to my letter were favorable, I could notify Sam to proceed with his Princeton invitation to [ ].

I know that [ ] is a very valuable man at GCHQ and that his absence for say three months would be felt. Naturally we would like to oblige Wilks but appreciate that whatever decision is made it will be made with first thought given to the interests of GCHQ and the joint effort. Please do not hesitate, therefore, to be completely frank with me in your reply.

I hope you had a fine holiday with your family last August. You will recall that you took off on that holiday at the close of my visit to London

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and I didn't have the pleasure of seeing you on your return from holiday.

With cordial greetings, I am,

Sincerely,

WILLIAM F. FRIEDMAN



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