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Serial: 0230

17 March 1954

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

Dear Dr. von Neumann:

I wish to refer again to your letter of 15 February 1954, and specifically to that part of it in which you suggest that at the next Board meeting in April we reserve some time for a discussion of extremely high-speed computing.

You have been good enough to consent to participating in the work of the Mathematics Panel of the NSA Scientific Advisory Board, in addition to continuing to serve as a member of the Board itself. I know how little time you have left, after fulfilling your obligations at the Institute, for participation in the work of other groups. But I wish nevertheless to extend to you, on behalf of Mr. Cairns, the Chairman of the Board, and of Mr. John C. McPherson, Board member and Chairman of the Electronics Panel, an invitation to join with the latter in the work of a special committee of the Electronics Panel to study the subject of general purpose flexible analytic equipment, useful in analyzing various devices. The following have been invited to membership on this committee under Mr. McPherson's chairmanship: J. Forrester, J. Desch, John Howard, S. W. Dunwell (of IBM) and Claude Shannon; thus far we have had acceptances from the last two named.

No date has yet been set up for the first meeting of this committee, so that I can give no indication as to the date when the group will meet. It is possible that no meeting will be held before the meeting of the Board on 20-21 April. However, if you find yourself in a position to join in the work of this special committee under Mr. McPherson, I am sure he and all the other members thereof would be very glad of your participation because it would undoubtedly be most helpful.

Hoping to hear from you with an acceptance of this invitation, I am,

Sincerely,

WILLIAM F. FRIEDMAN  
Executive Secretary  
NSA Scientific Advisory Board

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Copies furnished:

Dr. S. S. Cairns  
Mr. J. C. McPherson

cc: AG  
C/S  
S/ASST(Mr. Friedman)

M/R: Invitation to join  
special committee of  
Electronics Panel/NSASAB  
M. F. ...