

C O P Y

CSJAGP 50/2227

6 Apr 1950

Mr. Henry G. Fischer
Fischer, Willis and Panzer
Dupont Circle Building
Washington 6, D C.

Dear Mr. Fischer.

Your letter of 10 March 1950 to the Secretary of Defense, together with inclosures, relating to certain pending United States patent applications on inventions made by Mr. William F. Friedman, Director of Communications Research, Defense Security Agency, and now retained in a secret status, has been referred to this office for necessary action and direct reply.

According to your letter the Government permitted Mr. Friedman, alone or together with his collaborators, to retain the commercial or foreign rights pertaining to these inventions.

Your letter also states that in view of the facts set forth therein, including Mr. Friedman's present illness and its effect upon his earning capacity, and your statement that the inventions in question probably will not be released from secrecy for many years, the question has arisen whether, in equity, an attempt is not warranted to have the Congress pass legislation authorizing the Department of Defense to purchase from Mr. Friedman such rights as the Government permitted him to retain in these inventions

Pursuant to the request in your letter that a representative be designated to whom you would be authorized to present this matter in full and who would have the authority to ascertain and inform you of the disposition of the matter by the Department of Defense, you are informed that this office has been designated for this purpose.

This office is making a preliminary investigation of this matter as presented in your letter, above mentioned, in order that it may be better informed as to the facts and circumstances of the matter already of record before the desired further and more complete presentation thereof is made to this office. It is believed this will be to the advantage of all concerned and will expedite final disposition of the matter on behalf of the Department of Defense. This office will notify you, probably within the next week or two, when preliminary consideration of the matter has been completed.

Sincerely yours,

JAMES R. MILLS
Major, JAGC
Chief, Patents Division