

~~CONFIDENTIAL - SECURITY INFORMATION~~NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.~~CONFIDENTIAL - SECURITY INFORMATION~~Serial: 0845
31 Dec 52

Dr. Howard T. Engstrom
Vice President
Engineering Research Associates
507 18th Street South
Arlington, Virginia

Dear Dr. Engstrom:

Although I think you saw the inclosed document in draft form, I am sending a copy for your review in the light of my invitation, hereby extended you, to become a member of our new Advisory Board under the chairmanship of Professor Cairns.

As to the size of the Board, I expect its number not to exceed ten, but there will be panels to assist it, so that the various areas in our fields of interest may be adequately covered. As to the composition of the Board, at this writing I can say that I am also extending invitations to Prof. Robertson, Prof. S. S. Wilks, of Princeton, Prof. von Neumann, and Mr. John C. McPherson. Temporarily, Mr. Speakman will continue to represent the Research and Development Board. I plan, in addition, to have as members of the Board one or two specialists in the general field of wire, cable, and radio communication engineering, and one specialist in general electronics or in the field of the theory of communication.

Your participation in the deliberations and work of the new Board will greatly contribute to its effectiveness because of your first hand and relatively long experience in several fields of interest to us. 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 such meetings to two or three a year. We expect to place much more emphasis upon individual consultation, which will mean that Board members will place themselves at our disposal for consultation only as their own time and convenience permits.

I hope you will give your earnest consideration to my invitation and will accept it. We plan to hold the initial meeting of the Board during the first week in February and I will look forward to having you with us.

Sincerely,

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

RALPH J. CANINE
Major General, US Army
Director

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