

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~

Serial: 0803

12 Dec 52

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Rear Admiral Joseph R. Rodman, USN, Ret.
 Vice President
 Western Union Telegraph Company
 1405 G Street, N. W.
 Washington, D. C.

Dear Admiral:

As I told you over the telephone a few days ago, an advisory body, designated as the National Security Agency Scientific Advisory Board, was recently established to assist us in finding the best answers to certain technical problems in our field, a general knowledge of which you possess by virtue of your extensive experience in the Navy. The Board has been assigned a specific mission and certain functions, as described in the inclosure.

The Board will be quite limited in its membership. In fact, I expect its number not to exceed ten top-level experts. There may also be panels to assist the Board, so that the various areas in our field of interest will be adequately covered. The Chairman of the Board has already been designated: Prof. Stewart S. Cairns, Chairman of the Department of Mathematics, at the University of Illinois. Prof. John von Neumann, of the Institute for Advanced Study, Prof. S. S. Wilks, of Princeton University, and Prof. H. P. Robertson, of the California Institute of Technology, have been extended invitations to become members of the Board and I feel fairly certain of their acceptance. In addition there will be a member to serve as representative from the Research and Development Board, Department of Defense, and three or more other members. The latter are to be outstanding engineers or specialists in the engineering aspects in fields of interest to us. Among these members who are engineering specialists we would like to have one with experience in the field of telecommunications.

I am writing you to ask that the Western Union Telegraph Company recommend the names of two or three men from among whom we can select the specialist in telecommunication engineering. They may or may not be men associated with the Company, since the man selected would represent no organization but the field of specialization.

The initial meeting of the Board has been scheduled to take place on or about 26 January 1953. I do not think there will be more than two or three full Board meetings a year, emphasis being placed upon individual consultation with Board and panel members. Such consultation will naturally have to be determined by the amount of time at the disposal of the consultant and at his convenience. When attending Board meetings or

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serving in a consultative capacity the Government pays the cost of travel and a consultant fee not to exceed \$50.00 per day.

Finally, I hardly need mention the fact that the matters which would come to the attention of Board or panel members are of a highly classified nature and hence the candidates for membership must have special clearance for access to such matters, such clearance being granted only after appropriate security investigation.

Hoping to receive an early reply to my letter, and with many thanks for your advice and assistance in the past, I am,

Sincerely,

J. W. WENGER
Rear Admiral, US Navy
Vice Director

Incl:

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

cc: AG
C/S
V/DIR
CONS

M/R: Requesting RADM. Redman to recommend two or three names of men, specialists in the telecommunication engineering field, from whom one will be selected to serve as a representative of the above mentioned field on the National Security Agency Scientific Advisory Board.

W. F. Friedman/60493/11 Dec 52

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