

Serial: 3174  
29 June 53

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Dear Steve:

I was very much pleased to receive your letter of 18 June 1953, written as the result of a comment by John Hofferson on my behalf.

To begin with, I must apologize if he told you that I had intimated to him that I was entertaining the thought that you were not anxious to have dealings with us. Two mechanical errors gave rise to the thought. One of these was, as intimated by you in your letter of 6 March 1953, that our letter of 23 December 1952 (signed by Admiral Wenger) was filed by you or your secretary before a reply was prepared. Hence, since Admiral Wenger's letter was not returned to us by the Post Office, I imagined that it had indeed reached you but was disregarded by you. The other error was an identical one on our part: your letter of 6 March 1953 (finally replying to Admiral Wenger's letter and explaining why you were not completing the personal history statements and other forms sent you in his letter of 23 December) was also filed by the secretary of one of my associates before a reply was prepared. I never saw your letter of 6 March until a day or two ago, when it was dug out of the files on my insistence that there must be some reply from you in answer to our letter - you see that I indeed had full confidence in your interest in our activities.

Well, with the apologies out of the way, and with the hope that no further mechanical errors will intervene in our relationships from now on, let me say that I am deeply interested in the contents of your present letter, in which you outline the highlights of projects on which you are now engaged. By all indications of the past, they should be of interest to us and we shall be glad to learn all we can about them when technical details can be made available. I am glad to know about your clearance status and hope we can keep it active from now on.

At this moment I want to extend to you, on behalf of our Director, Lieutenant General Cairns, and of Professor Stewart S. Cairns, the Chairman of this Agency's Scientific Advisory Board, an invitation to become a member of the Advisory Board's "Panel on Electronics." I am sure that John Hofferson can tell you exactly much more about what the Board and its Panels are intended to do