

UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY
WEST POINT, NEW YORK

19 February 1952

Dr. William F. Friedman
3801 Nebraska Avenue
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Doctor Friedman:

I was delighted to have your letter of 13 February accepting our invitation to give this year's lecture, subject to necessary review and approval of appropriate authority. In the near future, I shall send the official invitation in the form and through the channels which your letter outlines.

In sending the official invitation, it will be desirable for me to specify the date precisely. Therefore, I have looked more closely into the various possibilities, and have reduced them to two which seem best suited to both the type of lecture and our problems of scheduling. Before attempting to choose between these, I should appreciate very much having your own statement of preference.

I agree with you that the Electricity Lecture Room is much better suited to a lecture of this type than the Department of Army Theater, and I feel that you are most generous to offer to give the lecture twice in the smaller room. Under this condition, we can handle it in either of two ways:

a. Both lectures on the same morning. In this case, the first lecture would run from 7:55 to 9:15. You would then have a period of rest until 10:35, when the second lecture would begin and run until 11:55. During each of these lectures, there could be a pause for 5 or 10 minutes recess if you desire. The disadvantages of this are that each lecture would have to be somewhat shortened, and it would be asking a pretty heavy task of you to give two eighty minute lectures the same morning.

b. One lecture during one morning and the other during the following morning. In this case, we would schedule the lectures for the mornings of 28 May and 29 May, probably starting about 9:30 in each case. Under this plan, it would be possible for each lecture to run for two 50 minute periods, with a 10 minute break between the first and second. This has the advantages of accommodating your complete lecture, and at the same time providing a full day of relaxation between the two lectures.

Under either of these plans, we hope to make your visit here pleasant and enjoyable. Although you have seen West Point before, we are always proud to have visitors return to the Academy, and this region is a particularly beautiful one to visit in the latter part of May.

If you will let me know which of these plans you favor, I shall then be ready to proceed with the proper letter to General Canine.

(Dr. William F. Friedman,
19 Feb 52)

I believe it will be best for us to exclude students and faculty members who are not citizens of the United States, and thus permit the discussion of ~~RESTRICTED~~ matter. I assume in this case that we should also exclude faculty members' wives, and limit attendance entirely to military personnel who are citizens of the United States. Am I correct in this assumption?

The entire Department is looking forward to your lecture with the keenest interest. I am sure that it will be a fascinating as well as highly valuable educational experience for all concerned.

Very sincerely,



Wm. W. BESELL, Jr.
Col. USA, Professor
Head of Dept. Math.