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REF ID:A66582



UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY WEST POINT, NEW YORK

11 January 1952

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

My dear Doctor Friedman:

This is to ask whether you will consider giving a lecture this spring to the cadets of the Third (Sophomore) Class at West Point.

Before giving further details, I should like to explain the background of this request. You may recall that Colonel Nicholas, Deputy Head of this Department, met you in General W.N. Gillmore's office last winter; and that Lt.Col. Horridge, an instructor in this Department, also met you last summer. Both of them have enthusiastically recommended that a lecture by you would be a stimulating and valuable climax to the cadet course in Statistics.

I am sure that a talk of the type they have described to me would ideally suit the purpose of our year-end lecture. Our general objective is to give the cadets the privilege of hearing a lecturer who, from first-hand knowledge, can give them a vivid idea of how mathematical or scientific methods relate to some important phase of military activity. With this broad purpose I prefer to leave the choice of specific subject entirely to you, realizing that any lecture you may give on the basis of your extensive experience will accomplish our purpose in the highest degree.

From our standpoint it is most convenient to schedule the lecture on or about 28 May, 1952. However, if some other date would be more convenient, please let me know and I shall make every effort to adjust our schedule accordingly.

The principal audience will be cadets of the Third Class, numbering approximately 700, plus about 50 officers of the faculty. The cadets will have completed their course in Calculus, and a course in Elementary Statistics to include some work in sampling and the testing of hypotheses.

We can arrange the lecture in either of two ways, according to your preference. First, we can assemble the entire class, plus the officers, in the Department of Army Theater and hold the lecture at 7 o'clock in the evening. This is our usual procedure. However, it has a drawback in that the theater (in the Cadet Gymnasium) is much larger than a normal lecture hall, being capable of holding 2200 people if the galleries as well as the main floor are filled. Nevertheless, we have necessary projecting equipment and microphone arrangements to accommodate any type of lecture there.

The other plan would be to schedule the lecture twice, assembling half the class at a time in the Electricity Lecture Room in the East Academic REF ID:A66582



Building. Thus, we might hold one lecture in the morning and the other in the evening of the same day; or we could hold them on two successive mornings, or two in succession the same morning with an hour's rest between them. The Electricity Lecture Room, being much smaller than the Department of Army Theater, is better suited to an informal or chatty style of lecture. It also has projecting equipment and microphone arrangements.

Our budget provides an honorarium of \$100 for the lecturer.

Until I hear whether you can accept this invitation, it is perhaps premature to discuss your plan of travel. However, I may say in advance that if you make the trip by train we shall be glad to have an officer meet you with an official car in New York and bring you to West Point. We shall make all arrangements so that your trip here will be convenient and pleasant.

If for any reason this invitation ought to be sent through official channels, please let me know and I will send a formal invitation according to the routing you suggest.

I believe that a talk by you will provide an especially valuable educational opportunity for the cadets and officers here. This Department looks forward to it with keen interest, and I hope very much that you can accept.

Very sincerely,

Wm. BESS Col. USA, Professor Head of Dept. Math.