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NAVAL WAR COLLEGE

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Newport, R. I.

Office of the President

5 February 1946

Rear Admiral E. E. Stone, USN
Chief of Naval Communications
Room 2524, Navy Department
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Stone:

The War College is forwarding letters of appreciation for the services of the individual lecturers, assigned by your office to assist in the short course in "Communications". Let me add my personal thanks to you, for the interest, cooperation, and effort of your organization.

I understand that originally there was some question as to the desirability of lifting the security veil sufficiently to permit discussion of the subject of "Communication Intelligence" at the War College. If so, I hope that the question has been settled permanently. I feel so strongly about this matter, that on the possibility that you may not have seen Admiral Pye's previous official comment, I herewith repeat the War College official, and my personal, views.

Wenger did a particularly fine job. [His treatment of the subject matter emphasized the value of communication intelligence to naval commanders, the vital importance of maintaining the security of our own communication intelligence activities, and the necessity for observing the principles of communication security in defense against enemy communication intelligence. I consider that the value to be derived from the indoctrination of senior officers of the Navy in these principles far outweighs any possible loss of security resulting from a partial revelation of our activities in the past war, particularly in view of the disclosures which have been made in the press.

It appears axiomatic that the full benefit of communication intelligence can be obtained only when all senior officers realize its potentialities for winning and losing battles and wars, and when their actions are tempered by complete knowledge of the elements of communication intelligence, rather than by incomplete and inaccurate information obtained through the channels of gossip. I believe that a lecture or lectures, such as that given by Captain Wenger, should be a continuing and featured portion of the War College course.

We have had Kelly Turner, and will have Forrest Sherman, lecture here. Next month Inglis will give a talk on "Naval Intelligence". I hope that the next classes may hear you, in person, uphold the dignity of "Naval Communications".

Sincerely,

/s/ R. A. SPRUANCE