



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
ARMED FORCES SECURITY AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

IN REPLY REFER TO

6 March 1951

Mr. Harold P. Edmundson
4553½ West 18th Street
Los Angeles 19, California

Dear Mr. Edmundson:

Following up my letter of 13 February 1951, I may say that the paper by the Institute for Numerical Analysis, entitled "Proposals for the Mechanical Resolution of German Syntax Patterns" is the most detailed and most realistic approach yet to come to my attention. It makes mechanical translation sound possible, but it also makes it apparent that the elaboration of a good electro-mechanical translation program would take several years. Although it is true that at this time there is no immediate prospect of an economical translating machine, it is not clear that there will not be one some day in the future. I, for one, would be inclined to think that day not too far off, in terms of decades.

Sincerely yours,

WILLIAM F. FRIEDMAN