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CSGAS

12 December 1947

Bell Telephone Laboratories
463 West Street
New York 14, New York

ATTENTION: Mr. P. W. Blye

Gentlemen:

The Army Security Agency is in possession of a total of twelve SIGSALY terminals, and three SIGSOBS, three FIGGRIN, and two SIGBESO equipments. This Agency has been considering for storage as War Reserve, six SIGSALY terminals, and two SIGSOBS, three FIGGRIN, and two SIGBESO equipments. These six terminals and the related equipments would be kept in condition and maintained so that they can be reconditioned, installed, and utilized in the shortest possible time in the event of a national emergency. The remaining six SIGSALY terminals and one SIGSOBS equipment would be salvaged.

Two of the six terminals intended for retention are still installed in Washington but have not been used for some time. The remaining four have been withdrawn from service; three have been returned to this Agency and one is stored at another location.

If the six terminals were to be placed in War Reserve for future reuse, it would be necessary to rehabilitate and test each terminal prior to storage. The practicability of such a project from the viewpoint of time and cost is questioned. At present, engineers from the Bell Telephone Laboratories are the only personnel who have the knowledge, ability, and experience to assist in ascertaining whether or not it would be advisable to rehabilitate this equipment in preference to substituting newly designed and constructed equipment. Factors involved include relative economy, complexity and size of equipments, operational and maintenance requirements, and time of rehabilitation as compared with the time it would take to design and produce new equipments.

It is requested that an engineer from the Bell Telephone Laboratories be authorized to visit the Army Security Agency to consult with

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Army Security Agency representatives and inspect this equipment in order that the practicability of rehabilitating and storing these equipments can be efficiently determined.

It would obviously be advantageous if the engineer selected for this purpose is one who has been intimately connected with the original development of this equipment.

This Agency wishes to express its appreciation for the courtesy extended to Mr. Brann during his recent visit to Bell Laboratories and also for your willingness to defray the expense of a visit by your engineer for the purpose of discussing the above subject.

Sincerely yours,

HAROLD G. HAYES
Colonel, Signal Corps
Chief, Army Security Agency

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SIGNED AND SENT OUT

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