

August 15, 1919.

4131-526

19

My dear Colonel Fabyan:

Referring to your letter of August 6th, I have taken the A.T. & T. Cipher Machine up with the Signal Corps and find that Colonel Mauborgne has returned from Europe and is only too willing to go to the bottom of this matter because he is as much interested as any of us in seeing that the Government does not put its faith in a device which can be attacked by the enemy.

[My personal opinion is that the entire series of misunderstandings has been caused by the fact that no two people who have discussed it have based their remarks or opinions on the same premises. The Signal Corps position up to the present is that neither M.I.D., Mr. Gheradi of the A.T. & T. Co. or Riverbank have been familiar with the method employed by the Signal Corps in putting up these messages. As far as M.I.D. is concerned the Signal Corps is correct. As far as the Company, itself, is concerned, I do not believe that they need to be considered at this time because they are interested in the machine as a machine and not in the way in which the Government uses it. At a distance no one ought to be presumptuous enough to hazard an opinion as to whether Riverbank is familiar with the Signal Corps method of putting up the messages or not. I think the only fair and proper thing to do is for Colonel Mauborgne to go out to Riverbank and lay all the cards on the table. This he is willing to do and as long as we have been brought into it and are interested in the matter from the point of view of security and secrecy in government messages, I think that Major Yardley ought to go with him.

Unless we hear from you to the contrary, we will make arrangements for this trip within a few days and let you know the date.

I realize that you feel that Major Yardley on his former visit devoted too much of his time to discussion of personalities and the various controversies which have arisen in the past, due to over-emphasis of the personal equation, but I feel sure that he is thoroughly alive now to the necessity of having a complete understanding in this A. T. & T. Machine matter and that he feels that as soon as the Signal Corps position is fully understood by you, that we shall all be on a common basis of understanding. My opinion is that as soon as we get on that common basis our troubles will be over.

-2-

2

As soon as Colonel Van Deman returns to this country, I hope that he and I can visit Riverbank together with a view to agreeing with you as to a satisfactory basis of cooperation.

Very sincerely yours,

H. CHURCHILL,
Brigadier General, General Staff,
Director of Military Intelligence.

Colonel George Fabyan,
P. O. Box 435,
Chicago, Ill.

MAILED, M. L. B., G. S. *al* AUG 15 1919

Kum