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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

21 May 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Armed Forces Security Agency

SUBJECT: Dr. Claude E. Shannon

Enclosed herewith for your information is a copy
of the reply received from Bell Telephone Laboratories on the
subject of Dr. Shannon's services.

/s/

K. Douglass

KINGMAN DOUGLASS
Assistant Director,
Current Intelligence

Enclosure

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BELL TELEPHONE LABORATORIES
Incorporated
463 West Street, New York 14, N. Y.
CHelsea 3-1000

M. J. Kelly
President

May 11, 1951

LT. GEN. WALTER B. SMITH, Director

Central Intelligence Agency

Washington 25, D. C.

Dear General Smith:

This is in response to your letter of May 4, 1951 raising a question about the participation of Dr. Claude E. Shannon in a particular field in which your Agency is interested. This matter has had some discussion among Capt. Wenger of AFSA, Dr. Douglas of CIA and Dr. R. K. Potter of our Laboratories and I believe there has been agreement that Dr. Shannon's participation in the program would be explored as soon as his clearance could be arranged. More recently, Dr. John Von Neumann of Princeton has been in touch with Dr. Shannon in this connection, so we assume the security aspect of the matter has been cared for.

While there have been several other approaches to enlist Dr. Shannon's services in connection with military activities and it has been our judgment that, in general, he could best contribute in his particular field by carrying on his researches independently, the matter with which your letter deals is of a more compelling nature and we shall, therefore, be glad to encourage and assist Dr. Shannon in participating to the extent of the preliminary examination you suggest. During this phase, we propose that Dr. Shannon's services be contributed by the Laboratories, with reimbursement to him by the Government for incidental travel and living expenses. If this preliminary review indicates the need for Dr. Shannon's continued participation in the program, we should like to reconsider with you the extent and scope of such participation and the basis on which it should be arranged. I trust this will be agreeable to you and I assure you of our desire to be helpful.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Mervin J. Kelly

President

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RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

MAY 16 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR, ARMED FORCES SECURITY AGENCY

SUBJECT: Special Cryptologic Advisory Group (SCAG)

REFERENCE: AFSA-00T/dk Serial 0297 dated 8 May 1951

In response to your memorandum of 8 May, I have talked with Dr. M. J. Kelly, President, Bell Telephone Laboratories with reference to securing the services of Dr. C. E. Shannon. Dr. Kelly was very cooperative, and I am sure that he will do everything possible to have Dr. Shannon serve as a member of SCAG.

In accordance with your request, we are forwarding invitations to members of SCAG as listed in your memorandum. In addition, we have included Mr. John H. Howard of the Burroughs Adding Machine Company, Philadelphia in accordance with your verbal request to Mr. Speakman. An invitation will also be sent to Dr. Shannon as soon as your office advises us that he has been cleared.

The proposed agenda covers the area very well, and I shall be pleased to address the group at the appropriate time. I believe this conference will be very important, and I want to assure you of full support of the Research and Development Board in this endeavor.

/s/

Wm. Webster
WILLIAM WEBSTER
Chairman

This document contains information affecting the national defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C., Sections 793 and 794. The transmission or the revelation of its contents in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

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