

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : W. F. Friedman  
THRU : R/D (30)  
FROM : R. A. Leibler

DATE: 21 September 1953

SUBJECT: Suggested letter from General Canine to Admiral Nimitz

1. This letter is concerned with the effect on SCAMP 1954 of the transfer of the Institute for Numerical Analysis from the Bureau of Standards to the University of California (Los Angeles).
2. If SCAMP 1954 is to be held at UCLA it is necessary for the University and ONR to agree. The modus operandi is for the University to propose to ONR that the former conduct such a project. But before this is done the Regents of the University (of whom Admiral Nimitz is one) must approve the project.
3. In his position as Regent, Admiral Nimitz has established a long history of rejecting Navy projects for the University which in his opinion did not benefit the Navy. The letter from General Canine is to circumvent this possibility.
4. The scientist mentioned in the last paragraph of the letter, who is to confer with Admiral Nimitz, is the undersigned.

*R A Leibler*

R. A. LEIBLER  
Chief

Mathematical Research Division

NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY  
WASHINGTON 25 D C

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SEP 1953

Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, USN  
728 Santa Barbara Road  
Berkeley 7, California

Dear Admiral Nimitz:

I am writing this letter in the hope that you will accept and use some information in connection with negotiations which, I understand, are to be planned between the Office of Naval Research and the University of California.

For the past several years the Institute for Numerical Analysis has operated on the campus of the University of California at Los Angeles, under an arrangement between the University and the National Bureau of Standards. I have been told that the Department of Commerce Committee for the Evaluation of the National Bureau of Standards has requested the Director of the Bureau to approach the University with regard to the possibility of the University undertaking the operation of the Institute.

This Agency has participated in the program of the Institute during the last two years, the greater part of the activity taking place in the summer months. This has been accomplished through a transfer of funds via the Office of Naval Research. I believe that continuation of this participation is urgently necessary in the development of knowledge basic in our work. I am writing to you about it mainly because of its classified aspects.

It is our hope to continue our participation in the research in numerical analysis conducted at the Institute in approximately the style set during the last two summers. This involves conferences of high security classification, but it is our intention that these classified conferences will not inhibit the program considerably, and that the mathematicians and scientists participating will continue to contribute valuably to the general mathematical and scientific community while they are in Los Angeles.

I shall be greatly relieved if you could undertake to guarantee to the Regents the importance and the mathematical and numerical depth of the work we attempt in this program. In this respect, the official position you last occupied in active capacity

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enables you to make such an evaluation, which would be hard otherwise to present to the Regents because of security matters. You will recall the type of work undertaken by the U. S. Pacific Fleet Radio Unit under Captain W. B. Goggins, Captain J. S. Harper, and others who were members of your staff when you were Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet and Pacific Ocean Areas. This Agency is assigned the overall direction in the Department of Defense of this extremely sensitive work.

If you would consider undertaking such a guarantee, I hope that you will permit me to have one of our scientists visit you and present examples of our desires. He is entirely familiar with the scientific requirements for attacking our problems and with the state of solution of the outstanding problems. He can assure you of our opinion of the Institute for Numerical Analysis as an organization of high value to the scientific effort of the nation and of unique value to us. I also understand that Dr. C. B. Tompkins, the Acting Director of the Institute, will be available at your convenience to participate in such a conference if you desire. Dr Tompkins has long been familiar with many of our problems both as an officer assigned to OPNAV and to FEUPac during the war and as one of my occasional advisers recently. I believe that our scientist can inform you of our state of need and that Dr. Tompkins can tell you how our problems have affected the Institute in the past.

Sincerely,

RALPH J. CANINE  
Lieutenant General, US Army  
Director

cc: AG

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1/11/53 1/11/53 is a copy of the Board report of the University of California. This Board was set up by the Institute of ... 1954 at ...

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