

Institute for Numerical Analysis  
University of California  
405 Hilgard Avenue  
Los Angeles 24, California  
25 August 1952

Major General Ralph J. Canine  
Director, Armed Forces Security Agency  
Department of Defense  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear General Canine:

This will summarize the conversation which Robertson, Tompkins and I had with you on Thursday afternoon 14 August. The three of us expressed our opinion that another summer symposium should be sponsored at the same location next year. We all agreed on the necessity for an early decision so that (1) the space requirements might be transmitted to Professor Magnus Hestenes, Head of the UCLA Department of Mathematics, in time for him to take effective action, (2) a leader for the symposium might be designated and be able to make an early start on the recruitment and clearance of personnel. I believe you planned to consult with others in AFSA and to reach a decision by 1 September.

We have thought about the question of a leader for another symposium. Tompkins and I, after further discussion (influenced by likely earlier commitments of Marshall Hall, Jr., whom we favored), believe that specific nominations might best be deferred until a concise description of the chairman's duties is prepared. It seems to us that if you decide by 1 September to hold the symposium, then you might at the same time ask advisors to prepare by 15 September

1. A statement of firm general objectives acceptable to you, the contractor and themselves.
2. Nominations of key participants.
3. Specification of duties of chairman and nomination of a suitable person.
4. Calendar of deadlines for the remaining plans for the symposium.

In order to avoid a discontinuity in the work between the two summers, it was suggested that research on a small scale continue

at UCLA during the coming academic year, perhaps through the medium of the INA to avoid some of the complications of setting up a new contract at short notice.

I recommended, and I believe the others concurred, that the work of this summer be evaluated by suitably cleared mathematicians who did not participate in the symposium, and then, taking their criticisms into account, by the appropriate AFSA personnel. Howard Engstrom, Mina Rees, H. P. Robertson and John von Neumann are possibilities for the first evaluation. I feel that the symposium should be judged from two main points of view, first with regard to the suitability of its objectives and second with regard to its success in progressing toward these objectives. The evaluations should throw light on (1) the desirability of continuing such research efforts beyond next summer and (2) modifications which might well be made with regard to research program, location, personnel, equipment and so on. It would be helpful if the results could be available in time to be used in planning next summer's symposium, if there is to be one, but the decision whether to have one should probably, for reasons indicated above, not be delayed.

I will, of course, prepare a comprehensive report on the activities of this summer.

You and we also briefly discussed on 14 August, some of your personnel problems, particularly that of the directorship of research. The principal names suggested were:

Dr. Merrill M. Flood  
Rand Corporation  
1500 Fourth Street  
Santa Monica, California

Professor A. P. Morse  
University of California  
Berkeley, California

Dr. D. H. Lehmer  
Institute for Numerical Analysis  
National Bureau of Standards  
405 Hilgard Avenue  
Los Angeles 24, California

Professor John W. Tukey  
Fine Hall  
Princeton, New Jersey

Professor E. J. McShane  
University of Virginia  
Charlottesville, Virginia

Professor J. L. Walsh  
Department of Mathematics  
Harvard University  
Cambridge 38, Mass.

I expect to spend the first part of the week of 8 September in Washington and will be glad to discuss the above matters further with you if you wish.

This letter has been seen and approved by Tompkins. A copy is being sent to Robertson.

Yours sincerely,

*Stewart S. Cairns*

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cc: C. B. Tompkins  
H. P. Robertson