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Serial: 2449

Professor John von Neumann
 Institute for Advanced Study
 Princeton University
 Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Professor von Neumann:

Thank you very much for your courtesy and cooperation in reviewing and returning Professor Cairns' report. Your taking so much time and thought, amid many other pressing duties, to reply to my 18 September letter is certainly appreciated. I have directed my assistants to give most careful consideration to all the observations you have made in your letter and it is probable that we shall wish to consult with you in the near future in connection with some of them.

I wish to assure you of my special appreciation of your valued assistance in the past and of your offer of further help.

Sincerely,

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RALPH J. CAMINE
 Major General, US Army
 Director, Armed Forces Security Agency

cc AG
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 CONS

M/R Self-explanatory. Ref. DIR's ltr to Prof. von Neumann serial 0579 dtd 18 Sep 52, and Prof. von Neumann's ltr to DIR dtd 6 Oct 52.

W. F. Friedman, CONS, Ext. 6049

WILLIAM F. FRIEDMAN
 CONSULTANT

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October 6, 1952

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

Ref: serial 0579

Dear General Canine:

Please excuse my delay in answering your CONFIDENTIAL letter of September 19, I was away from Princeton on several extensive trips and I only returned here recently.

My direct participation in the summer symposium sponsored by AFSA at IMA, Los Angeles, was only very slight, but I had several discussions with Professor Cairns, Dr. Tompkins and other participants, and I was in the Los Angeles area during part of the symposium. I have therefore a certain amount of information and a certain degree of an impression concerning it. On the basis of these, I will try to answer your questions 1) to 5), although I have to emphasize that my answers are based on imperfect information, for the reasons pointed out above.

In this sense, my replies to your questions are as follows:

- 1) The objectives of the seminar seem to me appropriate.
- 2) The progress of this summer was certainly in the right direction. Your decision to continue this effort next summer seems to me a very proper one, since the first symposium had primarily to concentrate on working out methods and familiarizing the participants with a, for most of them very unusual, class of problems. One ought to expect more than proportionately increasing returns upon repetition.
- 3) For the reason mentioned above, it seems to me very important to have all, or as nearly as possible all, the participants of last summer's symposium at the next symposium again. I would consider Professors A. Gleason and M. Hall, and Dr. C. B. Tompkins as particularly useful. In addition, I think that Dr. S. Nam of the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory could contribute a very great deal. His participation last summer was sought, but because of the shortness of the time available it did not in fact prove possible to arrange for it at that time. I think that it would be well worthwhile to start the procedure earlier now and to make quite

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Major General Ralph J. Canine

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sure of his participation.

4) Professor Cairns' suggestion that there be a technical chairman and a separate administrative chairman seems to me a very good one. If Professor Cairns is willing to take on the duties of a technical chairman again, I would strongly favor his reappointment. If not, Professor Gleason would be excellent. If neither of them is available, I would recommend Dr. Tompkins. I think that the appointment of an administrative chairman could be best effected in consultation with INA. It seems to me very likely that INA could furnish the right man.

5) The main additional objective — if it is an additional one — should, I think, be this: To go as far as possible into the methods and techniques developed by Mr. Roberts of ERA, in connection with the important A-5A problem that has occupied all of us during the past year. The security difficulties in this connection are obvious, but the possibility of doing fruitful work on this subject with the help of "toy" and other simulated problems has been extensively discussed previously and undoubtedly exists.

I hope that the above observations will be of some use to you in making your important decisions in connection with the next symposium and other matters concerning SCAMP. If I can be of any further help in this connection, please let me know.

I am,

Sincerely yours,

John von Neumann

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P.S. I am following your suggestion and returning Professor Cairns' ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ report on SCAMP.

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