

MEMO ROUTING SLIP

NEVER FOR APPROVALS, DISAPPROVALS,
CONCURRENCES, OR SIMILAR ACTIONS

1	NAME OR TITLE <i>Capt. Wenger</i>	INITIALS		CIRCULATE
	ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION <i>OOB</i>	DATE		COORDINATION
2	<i>OOB Have</i>			FILE
	<i>already initiated</i>			INFORMATION
3	<i>action on this.</i>			NECESSARY ACTION
				NOTE AND RETURN
4				SEE ME
				SIGNATURE

REMARKS

Am sending this to you with recommendation that steps be taken to ascertain whether von Neumann can be cleared. If affirmative, suggest that Dr. Bush be asked to sound him out as to possibility of his becoming a consultant to AFSA on a "when employed" basis with usual fee.

Declassified and approved for release by NSA on 04-14-2014
pursuant to E.O. 13526

FROM NAME OR TITLE <i>Friedman</i>	DATE <i>17 Oct 50</i>
ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION <i>OOB</i>	TELEPHONE

OO T

Seems a good
idea if we can
clear him & then
get him interested
\$03A

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO :

03A &

DATE:

14 OCT 50

FROM :

03A1,

SUBJECT:

1. First the clearance problem should be settled.

2. If (1) is satisfactorily settled, then Von Neumann should probably be contacted

first by either

{ adm. Stone
Mr. Webster
Mr. Bush }

to establish

the discussion with FSA. It is worth pursuing.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

12 October 1950

From: AFSA-34
 To : AFSA-OOT
 Via : AFSA-03 — *Concur &*

1. It is suggested that AFSA attempt to secure the services of John von Neumann as a consultant on cryptology.

2. John von Neumann is a professor at the Institute for Advanced Study and is recognized as one of the world's greatest minds by all mathematicians and physicists. Not only is he a brilliant researcher in mathematics and theoretical physics but also a great "idea man". He has done important research in the subjects of statistics, linear operator theory (matrices) and logic and founded the mathematical theory of strategy (game theory). He is easily the world's foremost authority on the logical design and program theory of computing machines. All of these subjects have a direct application to the operations of AFSA.

3. We anticipate no difficulty in clearing von Neumann. Because of his extraordinary talents his services are continually used by numerous defence projects, some of them highly confidential. During the war and since he has been one of the top theoreticians on the A-bomb project; he is, of course, Q-cleared. He also consults for the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics and the Aberdeen proving grounds. He is the head of a computing machine project at Princeton which is supported by the Army.

4. If it is decided to approach von Neumann, his clearance should be completely settled before any overture is made. We must then secure his interest in our problems and convince him that, if he works with us, he will have sufficient scope to justify the use of his time; otherwise, he might very well decline to assist us in view of his many other commitments. To do this we must be prepared to introduce him to the heart of our most difficult problems and explain the exact status of our work at the first consultation.

5. It is the opinion of all the mathematicians in AFSA-34 that von Neumann can make substantial contributions to the work of AFSA.

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REMARKS			
<p>What did we ever find out about clearability of Von Neumann?</p> <p>↓ No report as yet. He is under investigation.</p>			
FROM NAME OR TITLE	F	DATE	19 Jan 51
ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION	OOB	TELEPHONE	