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/AFSA/8 May 51

Dr. M.J. Kelly, President
Bell Telephone Laboratories, Inc.
463 West Street
New York, New York

Dear Dr. Kelly:

One of the Government's most important sources of information forming the basis for the production of high-level intelligence of all sorts is the Armed Forces Security Agency (AFSA), whose present Director is Rear Admiral Earl E. Stone, USN.

A very small group of carefully selected consultants is now being organized under the auspices of the Research and Development Board to assist AFSA from time to time, for short periods only, in its attempts to solve certain complex problems of a most important and urgent character. As of 1 May 1951, the composition of the group, called the Special Cryptologic Advisory Group (SCAG), is as indicated in the Enclosure. Both Admiral Stone and I are convinced that SCAG would be greatly strengthened by the membership of Dr. C.E. Shannon, of your Laboratories, because of his outstanding knowledge and ability in the mathematics of communications, and the probability that he could make valuable contributions to the study of the difficult problems to be considered by SCAG. Dr. R.K. Potter, who is also a member of SCAG, and who will be of assistance in connection with certain engineering aspects of these problems, can supply additional information regarding SCAG.

Anything you can do to make Dr. Shannon's participation on SCAG possible would not only be greatly appreciated but would also be distinctly in the National interest, since the matters to be considered by the group are of the highest importance in National Defense.

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Declassified and approved for release by NSA on 04-15-2014
pursuant to E.O. 13526

0297 of 8 MAY 1951

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NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF SCAG MEMBERS AS OF 1 MAY 1951

Dr. John von Neumann
Institute for Advanced Studies
Princeton, New Jersey

Dr. Stewart S. Cairns
Chairman, Department of Mathematics
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

Dr. Charles B. Tompkins
Staughton Hall
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Dr. Howard T. Engstrom
Vice President
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507 18th Street, South
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Dr. R.K. Potter
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463 West Street
New York, New York

Mr. Joseph R. Dasch
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Enclosure

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