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AFSA-OOE/jow

Serial: 00104

23 Feb 51

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

SUBJECT: Special Cryptologic Advisory Group

1. For some time, the Armed Forces Security Agency (AFSA) has been augmenting its efforts on assigned tasks and improving its potential for attacking new problems. Special emphasis has been laid on the procurement of additional qualified personnel. The Agency now has a highly competent and experienced staff, but it is believed that a definite group of outstanding technical consultants in certain fields of interest to AFSA would provide a valuable source of advice and assistance to the AFSA organization in meeting special problems.

2. As a result of our recent conversation, I understand that you would look with favor upon the creation of such an advisory group, and would, in fact, be prepared to provide the necessary funds for its support. It is my idea that initially the group would consist of no more than ten persons. AFSA would maintain technical records and provide other appropriate assistance to the group.

3. Specifically, it is proposed that:

- a. A special Cryptologic Advisory Group (SCAG) be sponsored jointly by AFSA and the RDB.
- b. That provision be made by RDB for payment of subsistence and travel expenses, as well as consultant fees, in accordance with existing policies.
- c. That no formal charter is necessary at this time.
- d. That the SCAG will operate on an informal basis, providing expert technical assistance to AFSA by serving as consultants in mathematics, computing machinery, and other fields of special concern to AFSA.

4. Should you concur in the foregoing proposal, any assistance you may be able to render in obtaining the consultative services of the individuals named in the attached list, or others that you may wish to include, will be greatly appreciated. None has yet been approached.

Declassified and approved for release by NSA on 04-01-2014 pursuant to E.O. 13526

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They have all had extensive experience with the types of problems involved or in fields closely allied thereto, and it is believed that all of them have either been cleared or, with one possible exception, can be cleared. The possible exception is Dr. Von Neuman whose clearance will have to be referred to the U.S. Communications Intelligence Board for approval. Hence it is suggested that he not be approached until this approval is obtained. I will initiate action to obtain all clearances required.

5. Dr. Cairns and Dr. Engstrom are already under contract to the Navy in connection with projects being carried on for AFSA, but not for the specific purpose contemplated in this proposal. Dr. Potter and Dr. Cairns are also members of the RDB Panel on Security Equipment, and, therefore, can provide necessary coordination between that panel and SCAG.

6. THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE LAWS, TITLE 18, U.S.C., SECTIONS 793 AND 794. SEE ALSO PUBLIC LAW 513, 81ST CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW.



EARL E. STONE

Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy

Director, Armed Forces Security Agency

Inclosure - 1

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CAPT J.N. Wenger, USN/AFSA-00B/jow
 19 Feb 51/X60210

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PRINCIPALS

Dr. John Von Neuman
Institute of Advanced Studies
Princeton University

Dr. Stewart S. Cairns
Head of Department of Mathematics
University of Illinois

Dr. Charles B. Tompkins
George Washington University
Washington, D.C.

Dr. Claude Shannon
Bell Telephone Laboratories

Dr. Howard T. Engstrom
Vice President
Engineering Research Associates
Arlington, Virginia

Dr. Hassler Whitney
Professor of Mathematics
Harvard University

Dr. Saunders MacLane
University of Chicago

Dr. Dean Montgomery
Institute of Advanced Studies
Princeton University

Dr. R.K. Potter
Bell Telephone Laboratories

Mr. Joseph Desch
National Cash Register Company

Dr. John Howard - Burroughs
Stephen W. Dunwell - IBM
Arthur Tyler - Eastman Kodak
Skellath - National Union
Hugh Duncan - Remington Rand
- Teletype ?

Suggestions

*Specialist
in Probability*

Incl 1

Dr. Willy Feller - Princeton

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DRAFT

AFSA-OOB/...
(17 Feb 50)

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

SUBJECT: Special Cryptologic Advisory Group

1. For some time, the Armed Forces Security Agency has been augmenting its efforts on assigned tasks and improving its potential for attacking new problems. Special emphasis has been laid on the procurement of additional qualified personnel. The Agency now has a highly competent and experienced staff, but it is believed that a definite group of outstanding technical consultants in certain fields of interest to AFSA would provide a valuable source of advice and assistance to the AFSA organization in meeting special problems.

2. As a result of our recent conversation, I understand that you would look with favor upon the creation of such an advisory group, and would, in fact, be prepared to provide the necessary funds for its support. It is my idea that initially the group would consist of no more than six persons. AFSA would maintain technical records and provide other appropriate assistance to the group.

3. Specifically, it is proposed that:

- a. A special Cryptologic Advisory Group (SCAG) be sponsored jointly by AFSA and the RDB.
- b. That provision be made by RDB for payment of subsistence and travel expenses, as well as consultant fees in accordance with existing policies.
- c. That no formal charter is necessary at this time.
- d. That the SCAG will operate on an informal basis, providing expert technical assistance to AFSA by serving as consultants in mathematics, computing machinery, and other special fields of concern to AFSA.

Deputy Associate Director for Policy and Records
 On 20130731 by *mm*
 Declassified by NSA/CSS

SUBJECT: Special Cryptologic Advisory Group

4. Should you concur in the foregoing proposal, any assistance you may be able to render in obtaining the consultative services of the individuals named in the attached list will be greatly appreciated. They have all had extensive experience with the types of problems involved or in fields closely allied thereto, and it is believed that all of them have either been cleared or, with one possible exception, can be cleared. The possible exception is Dr. Von Neuman whose clearance will have to be referred to the U.S. Communications Intelligence Board for approval. Hence it is suggested that he not be approached until this approval is obtained. I will initiate action to obtain all clearances required.

5. Dr. Cairns and Dr. Engstrom are already under contract to the Navy in connection with projects being carried on for AFSA, but not for the specific purpose contemplated in this proposal. Dr. Cairns is also a member of the RDB Panel on Security Equipment and, therefore, can provide necessary coordination between that panel and SCAG. The names of two alternates are included in the list in case the services of all six principals cannot be obtained.

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