

6 September 1955

Mr. Boris C. W. Hagelin  
Fryksas, Orsa  
Sweden

Dear Boris:

Thank you for your very nice letter of 22 August 1955, written from your Shangri-la hide-away at Dalecarlia.

Your kind words about the announcement of my retirement are much appreciated. I, too, wish you could be present at the retirement ceremony, which is now set for the twelfth of October. Apparently, they are planning to have more than a few people, because it is necessary to use the theater on one of the local army posts.

So far I have been kept quite busy, perhaps too busy, for I have been putting in fairly long hours of work. This is violently opposed by General Canine, who has set a limit with Elizabeth as to how many hours I am to work a week. But it does not really seem like work when you enjoy doing things.

I have read very carefully what you have written in your letter about yourself, your work, and what you regard as your shortcomings. I note that you have recently "started work on some notes, not only explaining my designs, etc., but also on the cryptographical background." And you wind up by the query: "For publication?", adding thereto that you do not know as yet. Well, I have this to convey to you: I hereby offer my services as editor of your autobiography, an offer which I can make in all seriousness, seeing that I have retired! Only do not write your memoirs in Swedish, Russian, Turkish, or Dutch. French, German, or Italian I would translate readily; and your English would need only a little polishing for idiomatic niceties of expression. As your self-appointed editor I would certainly scratch out all the parts in which you would belittle what you have accomplished. You are too modest. You have, in my opinion, made an outstandingly successful (both technically and financially) contribution to the cryptologic science and art.

Now for a bit of business. I have talked matters over with you know whom and we are in full agreement with you in regard to the desirability of further discussions in face-to-face meetings. We prefer to hold these discussions sooner than would be the case if we waited until you could come over here; for this reason we would like to send Dr. Shinn and a possibly one other man to talk things over with you. I would come along too, if my health permitted but you will understand, of course, that

travel abroad will have to wait a while until we see how my heart behaves in the next few months. Would it be convenient for you if the proposed discussions were held in Zug some time between 15 October and 15 November? Please let me know as soon as you can so that we can set up the travel arrangements. In this connection I note that you plan to leave Stockholm on or about 20 September, so that the dates I mention would appear all right for you except for the few days you plan to be in Paris late in October.

If this proposal is acceptable, I would have Dr. Shinn bring with him the book for Colonel Arnaud, with a suitable dedication inside the cover, to which I would certainly want you to add something appropriate. Please let me have the Colonel's official title if you know it, and also his full name, just as he would like to have it appear in the book. Also, I have at the moment the possibly unsuitable idea of putting my own bookplate on the inside front cover, as though the book had come from my own library, which in a way would be semi-true. I think the Colonel would get a real "kick" out of my bookplate, which you could explain to him orally, if necessary. And if Dr. Shinn came say shortly after 15 October you could have the book to carry by hand to Colonel Arnaud late in October when you plan to be in Paris. When you turn the book over to Colonel Arnaud, you could do a favor for the man who dug up the Caméla for us. He is the one who wanted some biographical information about the French cryptographer Delastalle and you will remember I once asked you to try to find something out about him if possible. Thus far my friend has not been able to learn anything at all, and my efforts have been fruitless, too. Maybe Colonel Arnaud could dig up some data - anything at all would be gratefully received, I am sure.

I am enjoying my retirement so far - with lots still to do. I really like not having to get up so very early in the morning as I used to have to. Later on maybe I will be able to tell you what is occupying my time. At the moment we (both of us) are busy revamping or rather condensing our book on Shakespeare ciphers, at the behest of the to-be-publishers.

And, by the way, I will be able to send you a reprint of my article in the Encyclopedia Britannica, which reprints will become available in February, 1956, I am told in a letter recently received from the firm.

Our summer season and holidays are now over - yesterday was Labor Day, duly celebrated by killing over 450 people on our highways. I observed the day by contracting a mild virus which shot my temperature up over 100 by evening. But I am better today and I do not think there will be any complications.

Even if our sending somebody over to see you will make unnecessary a trip on your part to Washington, it seems to me that it is about time that you came to America again for a visit with the members of your family who live over here. Especially will you be anxious to see Ingrid and Art's boy. So, we will be looking forward to a visit with us sometime this winter or early spring.

With affectionate greetings to Amie and you, from both of us, I am,

Sincerely,

1. That we are in agreement with regard to further discussion of his problem.
2. That we are of the opinion that we would prefer to send Dr. Shinn and possibly a second man to Europe for the purpose.
3. That it is not expected that Mr. Friedman will go at this time.
4. That we would suggest Zug as a site and a date between 15 October and 15 November as suitable if it meets his requirements.