

Serial: 549

17 Feb. 54

Mr. John Coombs  
International Business Machines Corporation  
Poughkeepsie, New York

Dear Mr. Coombs:

The National Security Agency is anxious to be able to call upon eminent scientists such as yourself for part-time services or for special consultation in matters of extreme importance to the national defense.

At its last meeting, the National Security Agency Scientific Advisory Board agreed to establish three scientific panels covering the fields of mathematics, telecommunications and electronics. It is proposed that formal meetings of the panels be very infrequent and that, as a general rule, panel members be called upon to assist the Agency on an individual consultant basis and then only as their own time and convenience will permit. The problems involved can entail work on both the applied and research levels.

You have been selected as a possible nominee for membership on the Electronics Panel, whose Chairman is Mr. John C. McPherson, Vice President, International Business Machines Corporation, 920 Madison Avenue, New York 22, New York.

Since the Agency's work is highly classified, there are certain procedures necessary in connection with obtaining access to the work or with the procurement of personnel. In your particular case, if you express willingness to assist us in our problems, the indoctrination required for clearance for National Security Agency matters can easily be accomplished upon your first arrival at this Agency.

If you are interested in serving on this Panel, please accept this nomination with the assurance that your assistance can be a real contribution to the national defense.

Sincerely,

RALPH J. CANINE  
Lieutenant General, US Army  
Director

SEE ATTACHED SHEET FOR M/R AND DISPOSITION

Letter to Mr. John Coombs

Serial:

M/R: Invitation for membership on the Electronics Panel of the NSASAB. Mr. Coombs (and below listed nominees) was nominated for membership at the 15-16 Oct Board meeting. These individuals have been cleared but not indoctrinated.

EYoung/S/ASST/60493/27 Jan 54

Identical letters sent to:

Professor J. Forrester - Serial: 550  
 Dir., Digital Computer Lab.  
 Mass. Institute of Tech.  
 211 Mass. Ave.  
 Cambridge 39, Mass.

Mr. John Howard - Serial: 551  
 Burroughs Adding Machine Co.  
 Research Div.  
 511 N. Broad St.  
 Phila. 23, Pa.

Mr. Ralph L. Palmer - Serial: 552  
 IBM Corp.  
 IBM Labs.  
 Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

cc: AG  
 C/S  
 S/ASST (Mr. Friedman)