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ENGINEERING RESEARCH ASSOCIATES, INC.  
507 Eighteenth Street, South  
Arlington, Virginia

7 October 1952

Major General Ralph J. Canine, Director  
Armed Forces Security Agency  
Department of Defense  
Department of Defense  
Washington 25, D. C.

Your Reference: Serial 0578

Dear General Canine:

I appreciate your letter of 16 September 1952 enclosing the confidential report of Professor Cairns on the symposium last summer at the Institute for Numerical Analysis. I regret that I was unable to attend the symposium and obtain first-hand knowledge of the work carried out there. However, both from reading Dr. Cairn's report and from conversations with individuals who were in attendance, I feel the symposium was well worth while and that the decision to continue the experiment another year is a wise one.

With respect to the specific questions you pose concerning the symposium, I submit the following replies which should be regarded as general opinions since I have not given the matter extensive study:

- 1) The objectives of the program as stated in the memorandum of Dr. Tompkins of 18 March should probably be revised. For example, I do not believe that the first objective "to provide a convenient and attractive, but private, setting ..." is really a primary motive for such a symposium.
- 2) The technical progress during the past summer was, in my opinion, extremely good. Its direction appears to be about as close to the ideal for AFSA problems as could be achieved within the restrictions of security. In my opinion, however, the work should be turned more closely to AFSA problems, if and when the security problems can be solved.

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- 3) I believe that the same key people who participated this year should be sought for the next symposium to insure a continuity of effort. In particular, it is important to retain the interests of such scientists as Professor S. S. Cairns, Professor John von Neumann, Professor H. P. Robertson, Dr. C. B. Tompkins.
- 4) Professor Cairns did an excellent job during the past summer and would make an excellent chairman for the next symposium. However, there might be an advantage in vesting the chairmanship in AFSA personnel, in which case, Dr. Kullback, Dr. Eachus or Dr. Campaigne would be excellent candidates.
- 5) With respect to further objectives, one which occurs at present is some sort of training function whereby young mathematicians could be steered into permanent AFSA positions. I will continue to think about this question and advise you on any conclusions.

I am returning the confidential report of Professor Cairns herewith. I shall take advantage of your offer and read the appendices to the report when I am next at AFSA.

Sincerely,

/s/H. T. Engstrom  
H. T. Engstrom

HTE:nlb

Enclosure:

1 Cy "Report on SCAMP"

dtd 8 Sep 52.

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