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Letter to Dr. Mina Rees

17 Sept 52

MEMO FOR RECORD:

Professor Cairns, Chief of O3 and Mr. Friedman agreed it was useful to have comments from qualified mathematicians on the symposium, but not participants thereof. Comments would be useful in guiding the next symposium.

See also letters to Robertson, von Neumann, Engstrom

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Serial: 0579

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18 SEP 1952

Professor John von Neumann
 Institute for Advanced Study
 Princeton University
 Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Professor von Neumann:

Since you have had some contact with the symposium which was held at the Institute for Numerical Analysis this summer and which was sponsored by the Armed Forces Security Agency, I think you will be interested in knowing that I have decided to extend the experiment another year and to have a similar gathering next summer. Your opinion and comments will be useful in assisting us in determining the direction of the next symposium.

I would much appreciate having your answers or comments on the following points having a definite bearing on such a symposium:

- 1) Are the objectives appropriate?
- 2) Was the progress this summer in the right direction?
- 3) What key people should be sought for next year?
- 4) Whom would you recommend to be chairman for next year?
- 5) What further objectives do you recommend?

I realize that opportunity to gain detailed, first-hand knowledge of the recently-completed symposium and its conduct has not been possible for you, but I would appreciate your statements on these questions, however modified or limited they may be, since what I wish are the opinions of qualified people who did not directly participate in the symposium.

A copy of Prof. Cairns confidential report, less the rather bulky appendices, is enclosed for your information. If you do not wish to retain the report, please return it. In addition, if you would like to see any or all of the appendices to the report, I will be glad to send them to you on request.

I will be much indebted to you for taking time on this matter.

W.F.Friedman/ebv/17 Sept 52
 Consultant/ 60493

Sincerely,

Copies furnished:

AB (2)
 OOT (1)

RALPH J. CANINE
 Major General, US Army
 Director, Armed Forces Security Agency

1 Incl
 Rpt on SCAMP, dtd 8 Sept

WILLIAM F. FRIEDMAN
 CONSULTANT

VON
 NEUMANN

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Dr. H. P. Robertson
Norman Bridge Laboratory
California Institute of Technology
Pasadena, California

Dear Dr. Robertson:

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W. F. Friedman/eby/17 Sept 52
Consultant/60493

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Major General, US Army
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ROBERTSON