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24 April 1951

From : AFSA-34  
 To : AFSA-OOB  
 Via : AFSA-03  
 AFSA-00T

Subject: Report of Visit of Prof. Von Neumann

1. Prof. von Neumann visited for the purpose of investigating SCAG and determining whether he would be available for it. He agreed to participate, and took the security oath. It was tentatively agreed that SCAG should meet on 4 June.

There was some talk about the composition of SCAG, and how it should be run. Prof. von Neumann indicated that Shannon was definitely a man for this group, and that the best way to get him was to contact Shannon personally, and to talk with someone high enough in Bell Labs. not to be bound by company policy, such as Flak.

2. A group then visited ATLAS. He asked to see a "typical" problem, so he was told about the problem then running, BOOTSTRAPS. He was very interested in this, and we talked about it for nearly an hour.

3. After lunch he visited ABNER, and was shown the machine and a description of the logical design. He made some suggestions which are unfortunately a little late.

4. He then visited SCRITCHER and saw an ENIGMA machine, and was given a very short exposition of the German cipher problems.

5. He was shown the high speed printer now under development.

6. He was very interested in our problems, and especially in our computer program. He volunteered to come down again sometime before June 4, and suggested that it would be profitable for someone to go to Princeton to talk to him.

7. In my opinion SCAG is already partially a success. To have von Neumann's interest is to guarantee that of the remaining members, and to insure that our problems will get attention.

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