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Minutes of the 5th regular SCAG meeting, AHS

12 and 13 March 1952

On the morning of 12 March the Group met at Mr. Speakman's office in the Pentagon to prepare a report. This report was presented to General Canine on the afternoon of the 13th.

At 2 P.M. of 12 March they assembled in room B2029, AHS. Members present were:

Dr. Tompkins
Dr. Robertson
Dr. Potter
Dr. von Neumann
Dr. Cairns
Mr. Howard
Dr. Shannon

A paper (AFSA Regulation 20-9) setting up the Executive Group for SCAG was distributed.

In the discussion of basic research the present status of the project on VHF computing was presented briefly.

On basic mathematical research considerable discussion was given to a suggestion of Dr. Mina Rees that one contract act as host for a summer seminar. The consensus was that this should be done for the summer of 1952 if possible. It was felt by some that this is not a substitute for Tompkins' original proposal, but that a long range project might grow out of it. The only feasible suggestion for ways and means was that Prof. Cairns could direct it under his present ONR contract, and that Stanford University or the Institute for Numerical Analysis furnish the facilities.

On the main problem a toy prepared by Schmidt and being worked by Roberts was exhibited, Schmidt reported on the Round ROBIN progress, and Reimers spoke on the attacks on the depth.

Dr. Potter said that he had not seen evidence that the problem of intercept had been adequately studied as a whole. Mr. Friedman suggested that Dr. Tordella should talk on this subject on the 13th. Some discussion arose as to the feasibility of improvements such as spectrum recording and automatic handling. This lead to talk of the Russian intercept net as disclosed by FLASH, and its similarity to a similar FCC net.

After a short report on engineering research progress there was extensive discussion of the rotor simulation program and DERVISH. Mr. Shepard recommended that it should go forward full blast. Dr. Eachus felt that the system should be

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proved first. There was extensive discussion as to how much parallel development should go on, and what directions different investigations could take.

Mr. Howard asked whether AFSA had made any steps to acquire additional computing facilities (such as the IBM facilities of the A. C. Nielsen Co.) in case of emergency. Because of AFSA's limited ability to expand he thought this was important. Mr. Friedman said this was a matter for the Staff Planning Division.

At 5:15 the meeting adjourned.

At 9 o'clock on the 13th the group convened again for a study session. SCAG members present were:

Dr. Engstrom	Dr. von Neumann	Mr. Speakman came at
Dr. Cairns	Dr. Tompkins	lunch time.
Dr. Potter	Mr. Post	
Mr. Howard	Dr. Shannon	
Dr. Robertson	Mr. McPherson	

At 10:40 Dr. Tordella spoke on the intercept problem.

He reported that at present there are 7559 circuits known which could be covered by 2900 positions. We have 1150 positions now. It is estimated that there are 17,600 circuits to cover, 13,500 of which have appreciable intelligence value. It would take an additional 2250 positions to cover the 5,900 undeveloped intelligence circuits, or a total of 5,200 positions. By asking for only 90% coverage of the known circuits and 30% coverage of the undeveloped circuits the need has been trimmed to 3,300 positions. The previous request for 1,931 positions should be realized by June 1953.

Dr. Potter felt that a better

The Group then adjourned to give their report to General Canine.

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