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21 September 1954

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Colonel Barton S. Pulling
 BUSIO Unit, Box 55
 U.S. Navy 100
 New York, New York

PL 86-36/50 USC 3605

Dear Bart:

I have just sent you a telegram on the subject of what passed between Professor Wilks and [] when the former visited GCHQ recently. Even before I received your telegram, I had dictated a letter to Wilks after reading what you wrote in your letter of 9 September 1954, since I, too, was apprehensive about the situation. I enclose a copy of my letter to him.

As soon as Wilks received my letter he tried to get me on the telephone but I was in New York (my mother passed away on Saturday and I went up for the funeral, which took place yesterday). I got back to my desk this morning and called Wilks because I was told by Captain McDonald that Wilks was all upset about my query.

There is not much to add to my telegram. It seems to me that Wilks failed to indicate very clearly to you (or else you got a misimpression) that the proposal was merely that [] was to come to Princeton for a short time and for the purpose indicated in my telegram. Princeton was to pay [] a modest fee for his time spent there (on a leave-without-pay status, I suppose) while conducting the seminar, which Wilks wants to run in the autumn of 1955. Wilks thought that [] trip to Princeton could be combined quite readily with a short stay in Washington, for temporary duty in NSA. If that were the case, Wilks thought, maybe [] could be given transportation via MATS and thus it would not cost either [] or GCHQ anything for transportation.

I talked with Dr. Leibler about the advisability of [] coming to his division for temporary duty of a short duration, say 2 or 3 months. Leibler felt that it would be a very useful thing for both NSA and GCHQ if [] could be spared by GCHQ to spend that amount of time in his (Leibler's) shop, as well as in PROD, on certain very important problems. The only question is: would [] superiors at GCHQ concur in Leibler's view in this regard, at least to the extent that they would be willing to spare [] for the length of time and for the purpose indicated?

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My own feeling is that Leibler is right, and that while we should not urge GCHQ to send [] here, we would be warranted in extending an invitation to GCHQ to let him come here for temporary duty at NSA, this to be either before or after he conducts the seminar at Princeton. Thus far there has been no GCHQ mathematician sent here for temporary duty with our mathematics group but I understand that is because GCHQ feels very short-handed in respect to talent in that field of our work.

I am looking into the question of MATS transportation under the circumstances outlined and will know the answer to that soon. If favorable, I'll next consult with General Canine before doing anything further. In any case I'll tell him of this incident as soon as practicable.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM F. FRIEDMAN

P.S. Would you be so good as to get somebody over to Selfridge's and start a tracer on the shipment? Not a sign of it yet and I fear the worst. I sent you the ticket number for identifying the order and it should be on hand in your office.