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23 August 1954

Mr. John V. Dodge
Managing Editor
Encyclopaedia Britannica
425 North Michigan Avenue
Chicago 11, Illinois

Dear Mr. Dodge:

Soon after writing my letter of 2 July 1954, accepting the assignment to revise my article CODES & CIPHERS, I was ordered abroad for temporary duty which I thought would take but two weeks. Instead, it took six, and I have just returned therefrom.

Noting again that the revision must be in your hands by or before 15 September, which is not very far off, I hastened immediately upon my return to the task of revision and I began by reviewing the present article in the light of the length specified in your letter of 9 July, as well as in Mr. Yust's letter of 29 June. I regret to have to say that I soon found myself in doubt as to the amount of space you have reserved for the revised article, but this doubt can be resolved very quickly by your prompt answer to this question: Do you intend the revised article in the new printing to occupy approximately the same amount of space as is occupied by the article in the present edition?

I think it appropriate to suggest that the present article CRYPTOGRAPHY, which deals largely with the history of the subject, is badly in need of revision. It not only contains several inaccuracies and could very well stand modernization, but also it contains matter which is duplicated to some extent and which more logically belongs in my article, since the latter is technical rather than historical in content. This leads me to suggest that the two articles could well be combined into one, under the title CRYPTOLOGY. Such an article could be made to occupy about the same amount of space now occupied by the two separate articles, but its parts would be logically integrated, the article as a whole would therefore better cover a field of technology which has increased very materially in national and international importance since the 14th edition was printed, and it would be as

up-to-date as will be permissible under limitations imposed by statutory law and Governmental regulations in the interest of national security.

The last clause suggests the advisability of my indicating to you that my revision will have to be approved by the appropriate authorities before it can be sent to you; however, I do not anticipate any difficulty on that score, in view of the fact that I occupy an official position which makes it possible for me to be quite familiar with the requirements and limitations imposed by national security.

Finally, I would like to add that my suggestion that there be a single good article under the heading CRYPTOLOGY is motivated by a desire to see to it that, if possible, the Britannica article will reflect the status of cryptologic technology as accurately and as extensively as is permissible. I hasten to add that I would be glad to execute the necessary revision without any honorarium, if that is a consideration in the premises.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM F. FRIEDMAN
Special Assistant to the Director

P.S. In reply you may use either the address on this letterhead or my home address (as was used in previous correspondence). The latter may be a bit more expeditious.