

17 December 1957

Major General James D. O'Connell  
Chief Signal Officer of the Army  
Department of the Army  
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear General O'Connell:

You will recall that the Chief Signal Officer used to publish a monthly journal, "The Signal Corps Bulletin", which from time to time contained articles or brief items of information about cryptology. Originally the Bulletin was classified For Official Use Only, but about 1933 this was superseded by Restricted, the classification which was carried from then on by the Bulletin until its publication ceased or was suspended in December 1940, with issue No. 108.

In 1942 the cryptological articles and items of information mentioned above were collected and printed in single volume under the title Articles on Cryptography and Cryptanalysis Reprinted from the Signal Corps Bulletin as collateral reading material for students. A copy thereof from my personal library (Inclosure 1) accompanies this letter. You will note that the Restricted marking has been crossed out and initialled by me when, on 30 August 1954, my then secretary at the National Security Agency was informed by Mrs. Rice, then a member of the Personnel and Training Division in the Office of the Chief Signal, that the Signal Corps Bulletin had been downgraded "by D/F from Security on 5 May 1950 and now carry no classification." (Inclosure 2) I do not know whether my secretary also inquired into the status of the book Articles on Cryptography and Cryptanalysis Reprinted from The Signal Corps Bulletin.

The recently-published book, The Shakespearean Ciphers Examined, by Mrs. Friedman and my self (Cambridge University Press, London and New York, 4 October 1957) has stirred up so much interest in my old and now unclassified writings that a prospective publisher is anxious to republish some or all of them, including those in the old "Signal Corps Bulletin." However, since the information as to the declassification of the Bulletin was not in writing, and since the status of the document containing a collection of those articles is not known to me, I think it would be advisable and desirable to have, in writing, before doing anything about such republication an official statement regarding the current classification of each or all of the Signal Corps Bulletins from No. 1 to 108 inclusive. I would be grateful if the statement would also state whether or not there would be official objection to my agreeing to the private republication of any or all of my articles and items of information contained in the Bulletin, or

of the collection of them as contained in the document entitled Articles on Cryptography and Cryptanalysis Reprinted from The Signal Corps Bulletin.

I would certainly agree that a republication of the articles should not carry anything on the title page which might convey or be considered or deemed to be an attempt to convey the idea that the republished material is an official document, although a prefatory note indicating the source of the material would certainly be desirable.

The situation outlined above applies equally to my brochure Elements of Cryptanalysis, which was published by the Chief Signal Officer in 1923 as Training Pamphlet No. 3, and was classified For Official Use Only. When informed as to its present classification was requested (see Inclosure 2) my secretary was informed that the Signal Corps had no record of such a publication. A copy of this brochure, also from my personal library, accompanies this letter (Inclosure 3). The brochure is now so old that it is regarded as being a "classic". It is only of historical significance, of course, and valuable only to collectors of cryptologic literature. A private republication of this old and quite obsolete document would, I know, be welcomed by collectors.

It would therefore be very much appreciated if a statement substantially similar to that suggested in the case of the Signal Corps Bulletins and in the case of Articles on Cryptography and Cryptanalysis Reprinted from the Signal Corps Bulletin would be included in the statement I request.

In addition to the foregoing, there are two or three more of my technical brochures which were classified and published by the Chief Signal Officer and which would now also constitute interesting material for republication in a collection of my early and now, I hope, entirely unclassified writings in the field of cryptology. One, for example, is entitled The Zimmermann Telegram of January 16, 1917, and its Cryptographic Background. (Inclosure 4). This brochure was written in collaboration with the late Dr. Charles J. Mendelsohn, a former colleague and friend whose manuscript writings and miscellaneous notes on cryptologic subjects were entrusted to me when I was appointed literary executor of his estate upon his sudden death in 1939. The aforementioned brochure on the Zimmermann telegram was published by the Chief Signal Officer in 1938 as a Confidential document; but on 1 April 1946 its classification was changed to Restricted. When the latter classification was eliminated in 1953, some classified documents were upgraded, some were downgraded, and some were made unclassified. It would be desirable for me to have the official statement I am requesting for the documents mentioned above include or also cover the Zimmermann telegram brochure and any or all of my other brochures which accompany this letter and are listed in Inclosure 5.

It is requested that all Inclosures except 2 and 5 be returned to me.

Thanking you for your consideration in this matter, and with Christmas greetings and best wishes for the New Year to you and to all your associates in the Office of the Chief Signal Officer, I am,

Sincerely,

W F FRIEDMAN

5 Incls  
a/s