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Defence Signals Branch,
C/- Defence Registry,
Victoria Barracks,

9/5

19th December, 1955.

Director, G.C.H.Q.

(Copies for information to:

Head of X Division, G.C.H.Q.

Head of T Group, Salisbury.

[Handwritten signature]

You will remember raising with me in 1953 a suggestion that Gerry Morgan should come to Australia to have a look at our machine resources and give us the benefit of his advice. At the time, Rendle and I felt that such a visit would be premature: our Hollerith machine section (MHK) was in need of more equipment (which has since been ordered and is expected in the first half of 1956); T group was about to be reorganised under a new Head; we had no other machinery and were not at that time able even to order COLOROB. I am quite sure that a visit by Morgan at that stage, though it would have been welcome, would not have been really worth his while.

2. During your visit here in 1954 we (Jones, Thompson and Burrough) discussed this matter again, and as I recall it, you kindly left the initiative to me to ask for a visit from Morgan when the time seemed ripe.

3. There has been a fair amount of progress since then. T Group is functioning on the research, development and construction of cryptanalytic aids; we have ordered COLOROB and ROMULUS from G.C.H.Q.; Robinson of T Group has returned from his tour at G.C.H.Q.; MHK is about to be partially re-equipped. More recently, we have had a full-scale discussion with T group (Strath, Overheu, Robinson) on the detailed planning for COLOROB, and reached a number of decisions which I will be writing to you about in the near future. The first of these decisions was to ask you whether you could now spare Morgan for a visit of (say) two to three weeks, anytime during or after April 1956.

4. There are several reasons why we should greatly appreciate such a visit. In the general sense, it is always useful to us, and I hope to them, if Heads of G.C.H.Q. Divisions can pay an occasional visit to Melbourne. In 1953 we had Alexander and Millward (and before that, Hodges and Poulden); in 1954 Bonsall; this year we have not had a Head of Division visit. A visit would therefore be timely, from our point of view, in 1956. More specifically, we would like Morgan to "vet" our detailed plans for COLOROB, both as regards accommodation and staffing; to look at our machine resources and plans as a whole; to meet T Group on its home ground; and, if he would be kind enough to take this on as well, to examine our cryptanalytic effort.

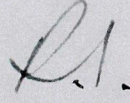
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2.

5. The further letter I am sending you on the COLOROB decisions will of course contain more detail. At this stage, I might only mention that we have in mind the setting up of an X group in about mid-1957, with Warmington as MX and Eastway under him on the COLOROB side. Robinson is to be placed in overall charge of the planning for and installation of COLOROB.



(R.M. THOMPSON),
DIRECTOR, D.S.B.

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