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GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATIONS HEADQUARTERS,
OAKLEY, CHELTENHAM, GLOS.

DGC/6416

1st February, 1956.

Dear Ralph,

Many thanks for your 9/5 of 19th December, 1955. It is good news that you can look forward to receiving new equipment for MHK at an early date; your Hollerith party has been (I know) for long handicapped by old and obsolescent apparatus (though they have certainly been remarkably successful in making use of what they had!). We shall be interested, too, to see your detailed planning for Colorob.

2. I am afraid however that this is from our point of view about the worst possible time to spare Jerry Morgan. I am indeed sorry to have to say this. It has become evident that our research and development work is in need of major reorganisation and it is my intention in the very near future to create a new division out of elements of S and X, with responsibility for a wide range of development from intercept receivers to high speed data-handling machines, and for operational research. Under the circumstances it is going to be very hard indeed to spare Jerry, or indeed any other senior member of either S or X Division, in the first six months of this year. I repeat that I am sorry to have to make such a disappointing response to your invitation which at any other time would have been more than welcome, but I feel sure you will understand.

3. Meanwhile I should like to say that we should be very pleased to see Warmington here again. As you know, he came to Eastcote and did a long Crypt Course in the autumn of 1950 but, so far as we know, has not had any experience of machine aids except as a customer. I should not think six months at all too long for him to stay here to gain first-hand experience of the various sorts of equipment and of the services rendered by a machine division to the rest of the organisation. While here, moreover, he could discuss with Jerry Morgan and others the detailed planning of Colorob and might, therefore, be able to cover at least some of the points that would have been taken by Jerry in Melbourne had we been able to spare him. Please let me know what you think of this idea.

Yours ever,

(Sgd.) Eric Jones.

R.N. Thompson, Esq.,
Director,
Defence Signals Branch.

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