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DGC/2198

18th January, 1952.

*My dear Thompson,*

In Sir Edward's absence I am replying to your letter 1/1B of 30th October regarding high-speed machinery. I apologise for the delay. It has been partly deliberate while some of our plans in the Machine Department took more definite shape, but partly, I confess, due to quite extreme pressure of work coincidentally with long absences of the Director and Josh Cooper.

I agree with you throughout. Your ideas seem to us most sensible for application to D.S.B.'s current tasks, as a final step to round off D.S.B. as a complete cryptanalytic centre and as part of the dispersal of Commonwealth resources in this important field.

There are as you say no spare machines or resources available; on the contrary we are woefully short of both. We are in fact in need at present of some 20 engineers for this purpose and our need is so pressing - and the supply so short - that we are at this very moment trying to get special priority from the highest authority in the land.

In these circumstances we agree that the best initial step, indeed the only possible one, is for you to send one or two engineers to work with our own people on one of our projects. We would be delighted to receive one or two; two would be preferable from your point of view as well as ours and therefore for the common good. It would be our intention to use them on a machine which is the most suitable both for D.S.B.'s present tasks and for general purposes. At a later stage, when your staff had gained the necessary experience, we could discuss the production of such a machine for you.

Meanwhile we shall do our best to make available a fair share of what machine hours we have, but they are as you suggest all too few. Looking over the whole field of our work the shortages here are far and away the most serious.

I have asked Jerry Morgan, who is enthusiastic about your ideas, to write you in amplification, in particular about the qualifications needed in the engineers.

- 1. M H MCM
- 2. M T 20/12
- 3. Director 24.3.52

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*Regards and best wishes,*

R.N. Thompson, Esq  
Director D.S.B.,  
Melbourne.

*Yours ever,*

*Billiant*