

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DIVISION

In replying refer to

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF
WASHINGTON

September 9, 1919.

4131-526
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W.H.F.

My dear Yardley:

I enclose two letters from Colonel Fabyan and my answer, both of which are included in one letter, dated today.

Please send me a memorandum explaining frankly and fully exactly what your idea is of Colonel Fabyan's suspicions concerning Colonel Mauborgne's motives.

In eighteen years' service in the Army, I have never yet come across a genuine case in which an officer, who was in any way representative of the Regular Army, has permitted himself to be influenced by the ulterior motives assigned to Colonel Mauborgne by Colonel Fabyan. Colonel Mauborgne's frank manner in discussing the matter with me gives me an additional reason for believing that the suspicion is entirely unjustified; but I should like to have you throw a little light on it.

I do not think it advisable to have Colonel Mauborgne learn through us that Colonel Fabyan feels this way, but I do think it very essential that ill feeling and suspicion be removed.

I enclose a draft which you prepared concerning the general question of publication, and also copy of my letter to Colonel Fabyan on the same subject.

Very sincerely yours,

M. Churchill
M. Churchill.

Brigadier-General, General Staff,
Director of Military Intelligence.

Major H. O. Yardley,
No. 3 East 38th St.,
New York, N. Y.

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Declassified and approved for release by NSA on 07-30-2014 pursuant to E.O. 13526

SECRET 3

4131-5
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September 9, 1919. AND W E

My dear Colonel Fabyan:

During my visit to Riverbank, we discussed the general question of publication in connection with codes and ciphers.

Colonel Van Deman has returned from France, and after a month's leave will be here in Washington. If you can see your way clear to come to Washington some time after October 9, I should like very much to have you see M. I. D. as it now functions, and also to have the opportunity of discussing with General Nolan, Colonel Van Deman and myself the general subject of publicity. Obviously, peace-time conditions are not war-time conditions and certain modifications of our policy are inevitable. But it will always be desirable, I think, to keep from other nations any information which would lead them to have any particular respect for our methods of cipher attack, or which would give allied nations any cause for offense in connection with the publication of notes which they had entrusted to us.

Very sincerely yours,

Colonel George Fabyan,
P. O. Box 435,
Chicago, Ill.

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4131-526
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This is.

September 9, 1919.

My dear Colonel Fabyan:

I desire to acknowledge your letters of September 2nd and 6th, and to express my regret that in our letter of September 2nd the word "assumption" was not used in place of "guess". I assure you that the word "guess" was not used with any unpleasant connotation.

I will do everything in my power to obtain the information you request in your letter of September 6.

Very sincerely yours,

Colonel George Fabyan,
P. O. Box 435,
Chicago, Ill.

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Colonel George Fabyan,
etc.

4131-526
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My dear Colonel Fabyan:

The subject of the conversation I had with you while I was at Riverbank has been on my mind from time to time, but it was not until today that I was able to give it further consideration. You will recall that you asked whether Lt. Friedman had my permission to insert in his manuscript anything that he desired, and without foreseeing at the time exactly what ~~this~~ this question involved, I stated that I had no objection.

The information about codes and ciphers collected at our General Headquarters in France was the result of a liaison with our Allies and of the combined efforts of some fifty officers, field clerks, and enlisted men who for ~~the~~ the period of the war devoted their time to the breaking of enemy ~~and~~ codes and ciphers.

~~As~~ This information is not the result of the efforts of one man, but of the efforts of the Services of France, England, Italy and the United States ~~and~~, in justice to our Allies, to the men, and to our Service, ~~if~~ I feel that if this information is compiled or published, it should be compiled, published, and issued by the service ~~whether~~ whether for limited or wide circulation.

In arriving at this decision

for I have your interests in mind as well as my own, besides being a reflection on the Service, it might by some be interpreted as a reflection on Riverbank which would be put in a position that might lend color to an intimation that it was assuming credit for work done by the Service, a position that both of us wish to avoid.

This opens up the entire subject of publication and distribution which I feel should be settled. The Military Intelligence Division will continue to remain silent about codes and ciphers. We may lose some publicity ~~by~~ by our silence, but I am concerned with results only.

But I do not want you to feel bound to our policy. I shall offer no objection to Riverbank publications even though we remain silent; in fact, now that conditions have changed I wish to withdraw my objection to the distribution of the Riverbank publications held during the war.

The disposition of these and future publications, however I feel should be made by Riverbank rather than MID, for we cannot refuse to publish and consent to distribute and maintain a consistent policy.

I have a report from Major Yardley that your latest exposition on the A T & T is highly interesting, but that he has not been able to reach a joint conclusion with the Signal Corps.

Very sincerely yours MC

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