

310 Second Street, S.E.
Washington 3, D. C.

14 May 1954

Herr Hofrat I.R., Oberst a.D.
Andreas Figl
Rudolf Bieblstr. 17
Salzburg, Austria

My dear Colonel Figl:

First let me apologize for the long delay in answering your letter of 25 September 1953 and in acknowledging receipt of your second letter of 1 February 1954. I can only crave your indulgence and say that between being out of the country and finding much more business than I could handle there has been not enough time to do what I'd like to do. I hope you will forgive me for my seemingly discourteous and apparently neglectful treatment of your letters.

I gather from your first letter that you wish to sell or otherwise dispose of the manuscript of certain of your writings on the subject of cryptography and cryptanalysis. I rather imagine that you have placed a considerable monetary value on your manuscripts and I must tell you that their purchase for my own collection would undoubtedly represent much more than I could afford to pay out of my own resources. It is possible, however, that there may be others who might be interested in acquiring them. Much would therefore depend upon their content and the value you attach to them.

Perhaps a good way of assessing or appraising the utility and possible monetary value of the manuscripts would be if I could find a friend in the vicinity of Salzburg who might be taken into your confidence and be shown these documents; he could then tell me what he thinks and then I might ascertain what the possibilities might be for their sale to somebody in the United States. If such visitor would be acceptable to you, please let me know and I will see what can be done.

Once more may I apologize to you and send my cordial greetings.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM F. FRIEDMAN