

Air Services
Telecommunications Division

SECRET

OTTAWA, Ontario, January 3, 1951.

Dear Gordon:

I would like to bring you up to date in our magnetic program and also request from you any information which you have been able to obtain along these lines since we last discussed the matter.

We have three engineers working full time on the program, together with two technicians, with concentrated effort on the magnetic sink. Progress is, of necessity, slow because of the physical labour involved in making the various set-ups and measurements necessary.

Full co-operation is being given by Defence Research Board and National Research Council although at this stage in the work there is not a great deal that they can do beyond assisting in some of the machine work and providing materials and instruments. The holiday season of course made quite a hole in our program as no one felt inclined to put forth a maximum effort at that time.

I understand that Doctor Solandt was in Washington for sometime recently but I have not had a chance to speak to him since he returned. I do not think that he uncovered anything of significance or he would have passed the information along to us. It is possible that Mr. Wright may be able to add something.

Incidentally, our program is now official within the Department of Transport and is known as Project Magnet. It is classified as secret until such time as we know where we stand. Doctor Solandt has requested that we respect fully the United States classification on these matters.

Doctor Solandt referred Donald Keyhoe's draft article to me for comment. I took extreme exception to the first portion of the article which dealt with material which we had discussed, and in order to preserve our position I took the liberty of redrafting the first part of this article.

I returned the article with the revision to Doctor Solandt together with a letter to Keyhoe explaining my action. I also asked Doctor Solandt to show the article revision and letter to the others in our group for their comments and any further revisions which they might consider in Canadian interests.

I have heard nothing further in regard to the Keyhoe article and I was wondering if you could throw any light on the subject. I imagine that it has long since been returned to the Canadian Embassy in Washington after which I understand Keyhoe was to take it to Doctor Bush for clearance. I do not know what Doctor Bush's reaction will be to the material contained in the major portion of the article and my revision, but his reaction should certainly be interesting and I would like you to have a talk with Keyhoe sometime at your convenience to ascertain this point.

I trust that you had a completely satisfactory Yuletide season and kept up the tradition of Canadians in Washington.

Yours sincerely,

(W.B. Smith)