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141 East 37th Street,
New York, May 22, 1922.

Dear Moorman:

I arrived in New York last night and am on the job again this morning. Everyone says that I look well and, to tell the truth, I cannot remember when I felt so good and so glad to get back and get to work again.

Regarding your G-2/2033-73, May 20th, I am very anxious to come to Washington to see you and discuss some matters but should like to spend the rest of this week here to pick up odds and ends and see what has been going on since I left. Next Tuesday is Decoration Day and you will of course be closed. How about coming down the night of the 30th so that I can see you the following morning? I should like to stay two or three days and to make sure that Hurley will be in town while I am there, as he promised to give me some data when I returned to help break some F and E material that we are working on.

I am returning the enclosure to your letter from Otto Holstein. It is obvious that at least two pages of his memorandum are missing as on one page the sentences are broken at the top and bottom while on the other two pages the paragraphs are all completed.

I wonder if you have ever met Holstein? He has always been interested in ciphers and for several years has been making a collection of cipher books that he finds in different countries. He has been collecting them much in the same manner as a stamp or

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coin collector. He really knows nothing about the subject except what he has read and has had little or no experience in the actual solution of problems. He has the same childish enthusiasm about ciphers as one finds in a stamp collector and, as his letter indicates, will discuss the subject on every occasion. I am not sure that the foregoing has anything to do with the request that you made of me as to what sort of answer should be made. It is merely written so that you will have some idea of the man's temperament.

As to his teaching the science of cryptography to the Peruvian Government, I cannot see that there is much to be said either way, so long as he does not make himself out to be a representative of this government (which by the way, unless I have misjudged him, he will be sure to do). His reason for teaching them, to quote his words, is so that he might be able to "gain some very valuable knowledge of the mental processes of these people". This sentence amused me when I read it for I know him intimately and it sounds exactly like him.

The objection is that if you give your consent he will probably show the letter and pose as a representative of this government. In this way he might get us into some sort of difficulty when it is learned, as it surely will be, that this government has an instructor in the Peruvian Army. As a matter of fact he talked so much during the war that he nearly got himself into trouble. You will do doubt find in the M.I.D. files and in the Paris files, if you have them, a great deal of correspondence about him.

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Personally I had nothing to do with the investigations as I was sure that he was harmless but the Intelligence in France had him under observation for quite a long while, and although he had some connection, which I never fully understood, with the President's party when it went to Rome, upon his arrival there he was forced to turn his code books over to his sergeant and during his stay was confined to his hotel.

Very sincerely yours,

H. O. YARDLEY

enclosure

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Major Frank Moorman, G. S.,
Military Intelligence Division,
Washington, D. C.