

REPORT OF THE WAR PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE OF THE AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY AND MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA AT THE HANOVER MEETING

In fulfilling its mission to prepare the Society and Association to serve the country in time of war the Committee recognizes three objectives

(1) The solution of mathematical problems essential for military or naval science, or rearmament.

(2) The preparation of mathematicians for research essential for objective (1).

(3) The strengthening of undergraduate mathematical education in our colleges to the point where it affords adequate preparation in mathematics for military and naval services of any nature. A study by a large group of mathematicians of the current routine military texts and sources wherever mathematics is involved in order that mathematicians may exert their proper influence on the teaching of military and naval science in time of war.

Organization. It is recommended that the present Subcommittee on Education be replaced by two new subcommittees corresponding to objectives (2) and (3) respectively and that the present Subcommittee on Research remain unchanged. So reorganized there would be three subcommittees designated as follows:

I. Committee on Research

II. Committee on Preparation for Research

III. Committee on Education for Service.

It is recognized that Committee III corresponds very closely to the special interests and aims of the Association. It is recommended that chairmen of Committees II and III be appointed at Hanover but that the completion of these committees be left until the new chairmen have had time to make recommendations as to the personnel of their committees.

Consultants. Having particular regard to the solution of problems, we recommend the appointment of Chief Consultants in each of the following fields: Ballistics, Aeronautics, Computation (numerical, mechanical, electrical), Cryptanalysis, Industry, Probability and Statistics. Other fields may well be added. The Chief Consultants would be responsible in research matters to the Research Committee without themselves taking on any of the executive duties of that committee. These consultants should also help the Committee on Preparation for Research when called upon. The three central committees should remain small so that they can act quickly. It is also recommended that there be *ordinary consultants* in each of the above fields. These ordinary consultants would be recommended for appointment so as to obtain some sort of correspondence with the subfields. Thus able young mathematicians so appointed might prepare themselves in advance to help in a given field. These consultants should also be appointed so as to meet the needs of particular sections of the country for help in its industries. It is suggested that any mathematician who feels competent in a field might ask to be made a consultant, and might be accepted as such if that seemed desirable. A flexible group is indicated.

DUTIES

1. *Committee on Research.* Problems would be received and assigned to consultants when available, otherwise assigned to members of the Research Committee. Recommendations as to educational needs would be made to the Committee on Education for Research. Suitable contacts would be made by this committee. The proper assignment and orientation of young consultants should be the duty of this committee.