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THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
ELECTRONIC COMPUTER PROJECT
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

file 100-
Patents

*Director's Office
Schools, EEP
Contracts*

*1935-1966
Box 304*

*Folder: EEP
Contracts,
HUCE Correspondence*

June 3, 1953

Dr. R. L. Snyder, Jr.
Snyder Laboratories
601 Chapel Avenue
Merchantville 10, N. J.

Dear Dr. Snyder:

Many thanks for your letter of May 28 regarding the invention by Dr. Slutz and yourself on static magnetic memories.

Before Professor von Neumann left he and I discussed the situation and had agreed that inasmuch as all the work that was done on the computer was placed in the public domain with the exception of the material in question, we felt that it, too, should probably be so placed.

As I recall Professor von Neumann had replied to you in this sense and had further requested from you a copy of the invention record together with any pertinent correspondence that you or Dr. Slutz had so that the Institute file might be complete.

As you know I was not the Director of the Institute while you were here and am therefore somewhat handicapped by not being familiar with all that went on during that period. I feel, however, that if we were to accede to your request to allow you to have the patent rights, we should require a royalty free license for the Government and for any of its contractors and sub-contractors as well as such a license for the Institute and for any other educational institution. We are legally bound to the former of these requirements and have made it a policy to require the latter.

My immediate reaction is still to feel that the placing of this material in the public domain would be the most acceptable solution. I am leaving shortly for the summer and would therefore appreciate having you send the material that Professor von Neumann has requested to Dr. Goldstine. He can communicate both with me and with Professor von Neumann and can let you know our final decision.

Very truly yours,

Robert Oppenheimer, Director
Institute for Advanced Study

RRG/cpb