



B L I S S A N D T H E P E N T A G O N

A not-so-merry-go-round of not-so-musical-chairs in the largest building on earth, the Pentagon in Washington.

This is a sequel of the S.S. Issue No. 190 titled

The United States Armed Forces and Semantography

See also the Issue No. 289 titled

Charles Bliss and David Sarnoff President of the Radio Corporation of America

When I was a soldier in the Austrian Army in the first world war, the Army High Command decided to strike a medal for all who serve. However, those who serve at the front lines, the "Front" (in German) will get a cluster of laurels on the colour band, the others not. Soon the joke went around that those officers who work in the offices which are at the "Front" of the War Ministry, (the "Kriegs Ministerium" which fronts the beautiful Stuben Ring Avenue in Vienna) should get the laurels too, because aren't they in the front line of the Ministry?

Something similar must have been in the minds of the architects who designed the Pentagon building in Washington. The Austrian War Ministry was a long oblong building with a back entrance. The Pentagon has only fronts, and no back entrance at all. I often wondered why it had to be a 5 sided building? The Army, the Navy and the Airforce would occupy 3 parts, perhaps the U.S. Marines, because of their fame, the 4th part, but who will be in the 5th part? I soon found out. The 5th part is occupied by all the offices and officers who co-ordinate the 4 other parts. The trouble with the Pentagon is, that it is an almost circular building. Everything goes around in circles. Indeed everyone can go in circles. The circular corridors in all the circular buildings are altogether 11 miles long, and at strategic places there are telephones for everyone who ever gets lost and can't find the way out.

There is a story of a woman who had to see some officer, and afterwards could not find the exit. She wandered in circles and circles as it grew darker and darker until she collapsed. There she was found by the officer of the night watch. "Officer," she cried in desperation, "get me out of here and into a hospital. I am going to have a baby". Said the officer very gravely "Lady, if you are in such a condition you should not have gone into the Pentagon". Cried the woman "But I wasn't pregnant when I came in."

Well, I was pregnant with this new idea Semantography since 1942, and in 1960 I wrote to the Pentagon because in 1959 the National Inventors Council of the U.S. Department of Commerce published in their November 1959 issue page 43, problem No. 1310 under Inventions wanted by the U.S. Armed Forces the following problem and the wanted solution:

SIMPLIFIED WORKING VOCABULARY APPLICABLE TO MOST FIELD LOGISTICAL SITUATIONS IN WHICH NON-ENGLISH-SPEAKING PERSONNEL WILL BE USED.

I was heartened by the fact that two U.S. Armed Forces Agencies bought all my books and issues of the Semantography Series. My correspondence is contained in the Originals of the Issue No. 190, and in the issue itself, which is a detailed account of how Semantography can be used by the Armed Forces of the Free World, fighting the menace of world communism. I advise the reader to read all that is contained in Issue No. 190.

Six years later, in 1966, the war in Vietnam had assumed larger and larger importance and the employment of larger and larger contingents of American personnel, as well as military contingents from Australia, New Zealand, South Korea, the Philippines, Thailand, Burma and Great Britain (whether directly or indirectly).

I decided to take up again my approach to the Pentagon, because I knew that the Invention for the United States Armed Forces, which they have advertised for the problem of working with non-English-speaking personnel, was now more urgent than ever.

Furthermore, there was the additional problem how ^{crashed} pilots and crews of various nations could communicate by laying out strips on the ground as for instance S.O.S. for search airplanes piloted by men who cannot speak English.

And so began a not-so-merry-go-round of not-so-musical-chairs in 1966. I shall now reprint the extensive description of my invention for which I received a

special form, but which was too small to cover all the explanations. Hence the additional pages addressed to the Commanding General of U.S. Army Material Command are divided by the headings contained in the original form.

Lastly, I tried to involve and interest a private firm in this lucrative business of getting fat Pentagon contracts, and hence I contacted the President of the Radio Corporation of America who happened to be a General too, David Sarnoff. This my approach is contained in the Issue No. 289.

And now to the go-round-and-round letters which were exchanged between me and the various offices of the Pentagon also excerpts from Time magazine.

The National Inventors Council,
U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C. U.S.A.

16 March, 1966.

Dear Sirs,

Six years ago your requested for the armed forces in your November issue 1959, page 45, problem No. 1310 a SIMPLIFIED WORKING VOCABULARY APPLICABLE TO MOST FIELD LOGISTICAL SITUATIONS IN WHICH NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING PERSONNEL WILL BE USED.

Could you kindly inform me whether the problem has been solved in the meantime, and if not whether you are still interested in a solution. If the problem has been solved, could you give me an indication how it was done.

Thanking you in anticipation, I am,

Yours faithfully,
C.K. Bliss.

Dear Mr. Bliss,

April 1, 1966.

In response to your letter of March 16, regarding problem No. 1310 a Simplified Working Vocabulary Applicable to Most Field Logistical Situations in Which Non-English Speaking Personnel Will be Used.

For your information I am enclosing a leaflet which outlines current procedures for submitting new ideas and inventions to the Government. If you believe your ideas should be evaluated by government agencies, detailed descriptive material may be submitted to appropriate agencies in accordance with the procedures outlined.

If you wish to have your concept evaluated by the Government on problem 1310 it is our suggestion that you submit complete descriptive and test data to the following address:

Army Material Command
Washington, D.C. 20315 Attn: AMCRD-SS-P

Your willingness to disclose your ideas to government agencies for review is sincerely appreciated.

Sincerely,
M. Nichols. Office of Invention and
Innovation.

Army Materiel Command,
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20315. U.S.A.
Attention: AMCRD-SS-P

4 May 66

Dear Sirs,

Mr. M. Nichols of the office of invention and innovation, recommended that I should write to you concerning the following matter. More than six years ago there appeared in one of your papers in the November issue, 1959, Page 43, problem No. 1310 in the following lines:

"SIMPLIFIED WORKING VOCABULARY APPLICABLE TO MOST FIELD LOGISTICAL SITUATIONS IN WHICH NON-ENGLISH-SPEAKING PERSONNEL WILL BE USED. PRESENT SITUATION AND REQUIREMENTS. The language barrier or more generally the inter-language communication barriers limit the effective and rapid utilization of indigenous personnel in our field supply operations. The first logical approach to such problem is to decide what must be communicated and how it is best accomplished (by spoken words, visual symbols such as markings, etc.) If we can codify and perhaps simplify the basic communication elements, it should be far easier to establish working relationships between logistical supervisors and indigenous personnel with whom they must work. Furthermore translations to any known language could be prepared beforehand, and tested for points of confusion." (End of quotation) That was in 1959.

I contacted immediately the National Inventors Council, U.S. Department of Commerce but unfortunately it got into the hands of a bureaucratic idiot, who bogged it down nicely in a pigeon hole. Knowing that the problem is still not solved for the Armed Forces I wrote a few weeks^{ago} again to the Department of Commerce and, as said in the beginning, Mr. Nichols answered and recommended that I get in touch directly with you. I have solved the problem and my work has been recommended by the Australian Government to the United Nations which of course is a super glassed-in pigeon hole by itself. I'm glad now that I can talk directly to soldiers, having been a soldier myself. I state right now that I don't want any money. If my work can help whacking the communists, this will be my greatest reward. And here is just one application.

Suppose a U.S. squadron flies in Vietnam together with some airplane piloted by Vietnamese pilots who can't speak English. Or suppose squadrons of Nato forces are flying on a mission and the leader has to converse with and command pilots who speak only German or French or Dutch. With my system he can give his command and be understood in all languages at once, and without translation, incredible as it may seem. If you are interested please let me know. But also let me know that my letters will be conveyed to the top people in the Pentagon. I shall send you all information as soon as I know that it will not suffer the same fate as my first approach. Awaiting your reply, I remain,

Yours sincerely,
C.K. Bliss.

Dear Mr. Bliss,

19 May, 1966 AMCRD-SS-P

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of 4 May 1966 to the U.S. Army Materiel Command pertaining to your interview disclosure: "Simplifying Basic Communication".

Your submission was forwarded to this office on 9 May, 1966.

Since your material was submitted to us voluntarily, it is impossible to predict when our staff will fail to keep pace with the day's mail. However, is our objective to handle each inventive disclosure as soon as possible. At times, however, the quantity of material received may result in a considerable delay before our findings are reported. At all times, correspondence is handled as soon as possible in the order in which it is received and as soon as our review of your material has been completed, you will be advised as to the extent of Army interest in your idea.

The opportunity to review your inventive disclosure is very much appreciated.

Sincerely yours,
H.L. Mourning
Support Branch
Technical Service Division
Research and Development
Directorate.

Dear Mr. Bliss,

20 June, 1966 AMCRD-SS-P

This is in reply to your letter of 4 May 1966 concerning your idea for "Simplified Working Vocabulary Applicable to Most Field Logistical Situations in which Non-English-Speaking Personnel will be Used."

The Army is always interested in your ideas and suggestions which may help to improve its capabilities.

The enclosed disclosure form indicates the type of material and information usually required for an evaluation. You should fill out one copy and supplement it with any necessary sketches or drawings and descriptive material. May we call your attention to the fact that government regulations require that we keep in our files the originals of all proposals sent to us for examination and evaluation. We suggest that you retain copies of each item you submit.

You may rest assured that your idea will be brought to the attention of the proper people both within this Command and elsewhere within the Department of Army. Your efforts in bringing your idea to the attention of the United States Government is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,
Benjamin Stutsky
Acting Chief, Support Branch
Technical Service Division
Research and Development Directorate.

1 Incl.

Disclosure Form (in dupl)

Mr. Benjamin Stutsky,
Acting Chief, Support Branch
Technical Services Division
Research and Development Directorate
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Headquarters United States Army Materiel Command
WASHINGTON D.C. 20315

Sydney 30 July 66
Re: Your letter June 20,
AMCRD-SS-P

Dear Mr. Stutsky,

At last I have finished all my papers for submission to you. I enclose herewith the disclosure forms in duplicate, and beg to excuse if I have used up all space available to cram it with information about my work. Semantography is such a novel idea that it looks at first (as every new idea looks at first, including going to the moon) crazy and absurd. But it works, and it can be made to work to help the United States Armed Forces, which is looking for just this for the last 7 years.

With surface mail see letter August 1, but in a separate second class parcel I am sending you 2 files under the title

SEMANTOGRAPHY - BLISSYMBOLICS

and how it can help the United States Armed Forces and the Forces of the Free World.

These files contain the same papers, and I have mimeographed, and printed every paper, and am ready to send you as many copies you need for distribution to all officers who may be interested. One copy of all I have sent to my distributor of my book

Mr. Wm. J. Mitchel
President
ACME CODE COMPANY INC.
102 First Street, Hackensack, N.J. 07601

As pointed out, I am not an inventor for gaining money, I am an old man, who wants to help the people of the free world to combat the threat of universal slavery, the aim of the communists. I hope that the United States Army will decide to make tests with my work. I hope too, that your department which deals with the libraries of the Armed Forces will order a number of books so that some bright young officer might get interested, and go where I have left off.

Please acknowledge the receipt of this letter and the airmail parcel, and be thanked for whatever you can do to help this new idea along. You will see from the printed Sample Tourist Folder that American Travel and Tourist Organisations consider the idea sound. If hard-headed businessmen, who spend money only to get it back with a profit, are already spending money on this idea, then surely there is something practical in it. I am,

Yours sincerely,
C.K. Bliss, B.Sc.

Mr. Benjamin Stutsky
Acting Chief, Support Branch
Technical Services Division
Research and Development Directorate
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Headquarters United States Army Materiel Command
WASHINGTON D.C. 20315 U.S.A.

1st August 1966

Additional letter to
my letter to you of
30 July 1966 enclosed.

Dear Mr. Stutsky,

When I had the letter of July 30th (enclosed) and the airmail parcel with the descriptive material in duplicate ready to go to the post office, I realised that all will arrive in a few days right into the hottest month in Washington. And I could not bear the thought that you or someone else is going to sweat about it all. Finding that a steamer is leaving tomorrow August 2nd I despatch therefore this letter, the disclosure forms in duplicate, and a paper to accompany it all by airmail, but the files with all the descriptive material will go by surface mail, to arrive in the first days of September where the heat is gone. Please give me therefore the priority for my application, though some papers will arrive later.

As it happened, I got yesterday my new issue of TIME, and I found there two items which I must relate to you, because they have bearing on my application. TIME July 29, page 13, reports under the title A FEELING FOR FREEDOM about the amazing rescues of two navy officers who were shot down over Hanoi.

The first escaped from a prisoners camp, and lived in the mountain wilderness for 23 days where he laid out white rags on the ground forming the letters S O S. These letters were spotted by a U.S. helicopter, and the lieutenant was promptly rescued.

How fortunate for him that he had enough white rags to form the long and elaborate letters S O S. If my symbols were already in use with the U.S. Navy he could have laid out a triangle which is the international danger symbol (safety first) and therefore I use it with other symbols. With only about one third of the length of the 3 letters it is easier to lay out, and easier to spot.

I have elaborated on this in my issue No. 70 where I tried to interest the U.S. Air Force through the University of Washington (Seattle) in my symbols as a means to signal aircraft overhead. Later, the Australian Ambassador in Washington, Dr. Percy Spender (now President of the World Court in the Hague) tried to interest the U.S. Air Force in my symbols, but received a reply that they don't need it. They have already their own symbols. But as the report in Time proves they have not a simple symbol for the most important message, and hence the flyer had to use the elaborate S O S letters.

The second item in the same issue of TIME on page 51, is the success story of Mr. Boeing, who as early as 1934 built the first 4 engine bomber, which the War Department rejected "as being too visionary", but which became the famed B-17 Flying Fortress, the plane which more than any other turned the tides of the war in favour of the U.S.A.

Through this and other setbacks caused by U.S. Government Departments, Mr. Boeing became so embittered that he withdrew completely from active work, until he died in 1956.

6 years ago, I suffered the same fate as Mr. Boeing when the National Inventor's Council turned down my work, though the U.S. Armed Forces advertised for symbols to communicate with people who can't speak English. Will I now suffer again the

same fate?

TIME July 15th reports on page 25 that the U.S. Armed Forces had this year a research budget of \$6.3 billion. It can't be difficult to make practical tests with my symbols. I am ready to help you and I have outlined this in my paper (sent by surface mail together with all other material) but I include a copy here and draw your attention to page 6.

Hoping that my plea with my symbols will find interest with the responsible persons, I wish to thank you for all you are doing for my work, which I offer without asking for any monetary gain, I remain,

Yours sincerely,
C.K. Bliss

Encl. Letter of July 30th
2 disclosure forms

Copy of my paper to accompany the disclosure forms and all the descriptive material which is being sent by surface mail.

Excerpt from TIME Magazine July 15, 1966

DEFENSE

Flying Belts, Swimming Tanks, Giant Muscles, and Fast Foils.

Modern technology treats harshly those who do not anticipate in rapid progress, and this is nowhere truer than for the military. The U.S. is not only working on next year's weapons, but also those for many years and even decades ahead. This year the U.S. will raise its research budget to a record \$6.3 billion. More than 2,000 new weapons are on drawing boards or taking shape both in the military's 83 labs and arsenals and in the countless defense projects of private industry. Among the more interesting:

The End.

Excerpt from TIME Magazine July 29, 1966

A FEELING FOR FREEDOM

U.S. pilots in Viet Nam - like the airmen in the three other wars Americans have fought this century - laugh off the dangers they face each day in enemy skies. Yet as Hanoi intensifies its flak and missile defenses, they realise all too well the likelihood of death or capture and extend a special kind of respect to those who have eluded both. Into the flyer's pantheon of heroes last week went two young Navy Lieutenants. One - whose name the Pentagon withheld to protect other prisoners who might have helped him - escaped from a Laos based prison camp. He spent 23 days hiding in mountain wilderness, finally was rescued by a "Jolly Green Giant" helicopter after U.S. flyers spotted an SOS he had made with white rags spread on the ground. The other, Robert ("Rick") Adams 25, is the only airman who has twice been shot down over North Viet Nam and twice been rescued.

The End.

Dear Mr. Bliss,

20 September 1966

Reference is made to your letters of 4 May, 30 July and 1 August, 1966 concerning your submission titled "Simplifying Basic Communication".

Your concept appears to fall under the responsibility of the U.S. Army Security Agency. Therefore, your disclosures have been referred to that Agency for appropriate action. Any further correspondence with regard to your disclosure should be directed to:

Commanding General

U.S. Army Security Agency, Washington D.C.

While favourable action in response to your disclosure is not possible by this headquarters, we appreciate very much your effort in bringing your proposal to the Government's attention.

Sincerely,
Benjamin Stutsky
Acting Chief, Support Branch
Technical Services Division
Development Directorate

Sydney 28 Sept, 66

Mr. Benjamin Stutsky
Acting Chief, Support Branch
Technical Services Division, Development Directorate
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY Headquarters United States Army
Materiel Command WASHINGTON, D.C. 20315.

Re: AMCRD-SS-P
Simplifying Basic Communication

Dear Mr. Stutsky,

Received today your letter of Sept, 20 in which you informed me that you have turned over my letters to the U.S. Army Security Agency. I am utterly dismayed about this, because from the very beginning of our correspondence you knew that the problem posed by the Armed Forces, concerning Simplifying Basic Communication

is solved by me through visual pictorial symbols, and this is the only possible way to bridge the many languages which are spoken by the indigenous people employed in the various bases around the world.

Considering the title of your department "Technical Services" and "Development Directorate" and the title of the department to handle my proposal being "Security Agency", I cannot see what security has to do with my proposal. I beg you therefore to reconsider the case, and to find out which department could be best suited to handle the matter and to see that my papers come into the right hands. Please realise that it is not me who came to the U.S. Armed Forces with an idea, but it is the Armed Forces who advertised for the solution of this idea 7 years ago. So, someone wants the problem solved. Someone needs it.

Lastly, I sent by ordinary mail a large file containing all the accompanying papers. This file should reach you now these days, it has apparently not yet arrived when you sent off your letter. When it comes please turn it over together with my previous letters to the person now in charge. Otherwise the file will go somewhere else, and my whole approach will come to naught. I state again that I don't want any money. I want to give my share of help to the Armed Forces of the Free World.

Please write to me, so that I know that my file has arrived.

Yours sincerely,
C.K. Bliss, B.Sc.

Dear Mr. Bliss,

10 October, 1966

Reference is made to your letter of 26 September 1966 concerning "Simplified Basic Communication".

We regret that your proposal was inadvertently forwarded to the Army Security Agency and have therefore retrieved your material. There are no applications of your proposed technique to Army requirement known to this Command. However, it has been forwarded to the U.S. Army Combat Developments Command for evaluation, and direct reply to you.

Should further consideration be necessary with respect to your proposal you should direct your material to:

Commanding General
U.S. Army Combat Developments Command
ATTN: CDCMP-A
Ft. Belvoir, Virginia 22060

The evaluation may require some time, but you will be notified of the Army's decision with respect to your proposal. Upon completion of the evaluation the Headquarters indicated above will reply directly to you.

Although some time will have transpired before your material can be evaluated, we certainly appreciate your patience and your efforts in offering your proposal to us for our evaluation.

Sincerely,
Albert K. Tank
Lt. Colonel G.S.
Acting Chief, Support Branch
Technical Services Division
Development Directorate

Albert K. Tank,
Lt. Colonel, GS.
Acting Chief, Support Branch
Technical Service Division
Development Directorate,
Department of the Army
WASHINGTON D.C. U.S.A.
Dear Lt. Colonel Tank,

17th October, 1966

Many thanks for your kind letter of October 10th, informing me that my proposal has been taken away from the Army Security Agency and handed over to the U.S. Army Combat Development Command. Thank you very much for this, but allow me to inform you about the general situation concerning this proposal.

The Pentagon must be pestered with thousands of letters by thousands of inventors, everyone proposing a sure-fire invention how to end the war in Viet Nam not only quickly but victoriously. Though I am very much interested and with all my heart being in the fight for the free world, my proposal is of quite a different type. The fact is that I didn't bother you in the first place. The United States Armed Forces bothered about a problem which has been, and still is, a great headache to the U.S. Armed Forces maintaining bases all over the world, and being forced to employ indigenous personnel as a labour force, so these people can't understand a word of English. What was wanted was a system of markings to be placed on boxes, crates, etc. which markings would be understood in all languages.

That call to all inventors went out in 1959, and as I am the first and only man who has invented a complete system of pictorial symbols which cover any meaning needed. I applied immediately for a test and a study of my work. From the very first moment I didn't ask for a single penny (in contrast to most inventors who think only of monetary gains). I'm a graduate of German and Japanese concentration segregation camps and it is this experience which kindled my desire to help the Armed Forces of the free world.

What happened in 1959, is I'm afraid, going to happen again in 1966. My first proposal bogged down somewhere in the Pentagon, and I had to give it up. But now the second edition of my book is out and is distributed by Acme Code Company Inc. 102 First Street, Hackensack, New Jersey 07601. This firm has as its main customer, the U.S. Government and its various departments including the Armed Forces which order whatever book they require from Acme Code Co., as wholesale distributor. It was this new connection which prompted me to write again to the Pentagon in order to find out whether or not the problem still stands, that is if a solution has been found to the original problem advertised in 1959, and when I found that it does indeed still stand I began to pester the Pentagon.

Now that you know the whole story, I still believe that your department should be vitally interested, if I understand the two words Material Command in your letterhead as to mean the distribution of boxes, cases, etc. of all material needed to fight a war.

I was therefore very sorry when Mr. Stutsky got rid of my papers, but now that you are a new man, please read through the correspondence and especially the large file containing all documents which I have sent in duplicate, and think about an investigation by your department.

It is true that the universality of my symbols are such that they can be used not only on cases, boxes, etc. of war material, but even in combat when the U.S. Armed Forces are fighting together with allied forces who can't understand English. I therefore explained in detail the possibility of communication by closed-TV circuit within a fighter squadron which contains also pilots who don't understand English.

This means that my work is of interest to your materiel command but is also of interest to the U.S. Army Combat Developments Command. I shall therefore write to this command but I ask you again to consider the advantages of my work for your command. As I have sent to you previously two complete identical files with all documents I suggest that you keep one file and send the other file to the Combat Developments Command.

Hoping for your considered action, I remain, thanking you in anticipation,

Yours sincerely,

C.K. Bliss.

P.S. I believe the best would be for you to order my book SEMANTOGRAPHY from Acme Code Company, 102 First Street, Hackensack, N.J. 07601 U.S.A.

18 October, 1966

Commanding General
U.S. Army Combat Developments Command,
Ft. Belvoir,
Virginia 22060 U.S.A.

Attention: CDCMP-A

Dear Sir,

Lt. Colonel Albert K. Tank, Acting Chief, Support Branch, Technical Services Division, Development Directorate, Department of the Army, Washington D.C., informed me that you have received the whole correspondence concerning my proposal to the advertised problem of the U.S. Armed Forces "Simplified Basic Communication". From this correspondence you will see that I am not one of the thousands of inventors who pester the Pentagon. The Armed Forces called all Inventors in 1959 to help them with a problem, and I responded. Unfortunately the correspondence was bogged down in the Pentagon 6 years ago.

In this year I enquired whether the Armed Forces are still interested. I was told they are, and hence began the correspondence and the compilation of a file with all documents. Unfortunately, the Armed Materiel Command sent it first to the Army Security Agency, and then to you. I understand that such proposals must be a bother to you all, but again, I responded only to a call by the Armed Forces for a solution.

The title of your department, Army Combat Development Command, indicates that you are interested in any idea which could help the development of better combat. As my system is specially designed to be used when U.S. Armed Forces are fighting with allied personnel who don't understand English, I beg you to give my Papers your consideration, and thank you in anticipation.

Hoping to hear from you I remain,

Yours faithfully,

C.K. Bliss

I believe the best would be for you to order my book SEMANTOGRAPHY from Acme Code Company Inc., 102 First Street, Hackensack, N.J. 07601

IACPS-E(M)

26 October, 1966

Dear Mr. Bliss,

Since your proposal was not a security matter, it did not come within the purview of this Agency, therefore, it was returned to the U.S. Army Materiel Command for their action on 28 September 1966.

A copy of this correspondence will be sent to the Army Materiel Command for their information.

Sincerely yours,

W.F. Deane

1st Lt. AIS

Act. Asst. AG

Copy furnished

CG, USAMC, ATTN: AMCRD-SS-P

Dear Mr. Bliss,

November 14 1966

This letter is intended to serve as an interim reply to your letter of 18 October 1966, since your proposal is currently under review by several different agencies of the US Army Combat Development Command.

Your proposal has not been received in the headquarters, as yet, since it was received and began its review at the Military Police Agency, a subordinate command, and has possible interest in other US Army Combat Developments Command agencies. When reviewed, it will come to this office and you will receive acknowledgement and indication of interest for further pursuit, if appropriate.

Your interest and efforts directed towards the improvement of the military capabilities of the US Army are indeed appreciated.

Sincerely,

Thomas O. Blakeney

Colonel GS

Director of Materiel

Dear Mr. Bliss,

November 14 1966

This letter is intended to serve as an interim reply to your letter of 18 October 1966, since your proposal is currently under review by several different agencies of the US Army Combat Developments Command.

Your proposal has not been received in the headquarters, as yet, since it was received and began its review at the Military Police Agency, a subordinate command, and has possible interest in other US Army Combat Developments Command Agencies. When reviewed, it will come to this office and you will receive acknowledgement and indication of interest for further pursuit, if appropriate.

Your interest and efforts directed towards the improvement of the military capabilities of the US Army are indeed appreciated.

Sincerely,

Thomas O. Blakeney

Dear Mr. Bliss,

December 2, 1966

In my interim letter of 14 November 1966, you were advised that your proposal for simplified basic communication was in the process of review and analysis by agencies of the US Army Combat Developments Command.

The individual reviews afforded an essentially similar view, namely, that the progress that has been made in the area of NATO member nation approval of standard symbol systems would be jeopardized if changes were to be made at this time. Further, that to change symbols used by United States Forces in Vietnam now would increase the confusion which you are striving to reduce or eliminate.

Despite the fact that no further action can be taken on your proposal by the US Army, your interest and patriotism in making Blissymbolics available are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Thomas O. Blakeney

Colonel, GS

Director of Materiel.

Mr. Thomas O. Blakeney

Colonel GS

Director of Materiel

Sydney 9 dec 66

Headquarters United States Army Combat Developments Command

Department of the Army,

Fort Belvoir, Virginia, 22060 U.S.A.

Dear Colonel Blakeney,

Your letter CDCMR-0 dated 2.12.66

Many thanks for your kind letter of December 2. This is the first time that I received news of symbols used by Nato in Europe, and by the Armed Forces in Vietnam. Naturally, I am greatly interested to see these symbols, because all my previous experiences with other endeavours in the symbol field have shown that only a few symbols are used, moreover, they cannot be combined for any other meaning needed.

What the world needs is a simple universal system of basic pictorial symbols which can be used in combination for any meaning needed in communication, commerce industry, and science. I know definitely that I am the only man who has invented

such a system, and my book proves this. It is already greatly appreciated by the organisations in the travel business. They are now crying out for stopping officials inventing their own symbols, which leads to a new Babel.

If you want to do me a great favour, please get me the symbols used by Nato and in Vietnam so that I can have a look at them, and see whether they can be augmented by my symbols. I am an engineer who knows a good thing when he sees it. I shall be ready to acknowledge a good symbol when I see it.

I beg you also to realise that in approaching you and other departments of the U.S. Armed Forces, I am not looking for a contract in order to get some money. This is for me a purely altruistic endeavour. I am an old man, and I am writing my heart out to all organisations that can use my work. No doubt, it will be used but long after I am dead. I know that this is the usual fate of pioneers, but I am still alive to go on working.

Lastly, I know that the various departments of the U.S. Armed Forces are buying many books. I suggest to you that you acquire my book for the library of your department. The library price (reduced by 25% including postage) is \$9.00, and the book is distributed by Acme Code Company 102 First Street, Hackensack, N.J. 07601. Your order will be greatly appreciated. I close my letter wishing you and your co-workers a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year 1967.

Yours sincerely,
C.K. Bliss.

IN DESPERATION I TURNED TO THE HIGHEST PERSON IN THE PENTAGON THE SECRETARY OF DEFENCE MR. McNAMARA.

To the Secretary for Defence Mr. McNamara,
Pentagon, Washington D.C. U.S.A.
Dear Mr. McNamara,

Sydney 4-3-67

This letter is written in some sort of desperation. I am well aware of all the difficulties facing all the branches of the U.S. Armed Forces, and I am also aware of the many letters your receive from well-meaning citizens and cranks all offering sure-fire solutions for ending the war in Vietnam, or how to do this or that.

The trouble in my case is that I had no interest to approach the U.S. Armed Forces. I learned in 1959 from one of your papers that you are in need of some sort of international communication medium to help you with all the indigenous labour forces in the many bases around the world who cannot speak English. You wanted, among other things, a set of symbols to be put on cases, boxes, weapons, etc. which can be read in all languages.

It so happened that I am the inventor of a complete system of pictorial symbols consisting of a few basic symbol elements which can be used in combination to express any meaning needed. My book on this my SEMANTOGRAPHY-BLISSYMBOLICS is now available in its second edition from the American Distributor Acme Code Co., Inc., 102 First Street, Hackensack, N.J. 07601.

To make it perfectly clear, I DON'T WANT ANY MONEY FROM YOU. I think you need my work in my great task to contain the enemies of the free world, and I want to do anything I can to help too.

And now comes the sorry story. Since 1959 I have written to a number of departments, lastly again in 1966. One department tossed my letters and papers to the other, everyone trying to get rid of it as quickly as possible, until one department informed me that they got already symbols in Vietnam and in the Nato forces. This was great news for me, and I asked to see them. The rest was silence.

In my letters I have also mentioned the many uses of my symbols as for instance for communication within a flying squadron of bombers in which pilots of other nations speaking other languages than English are flying. I explained how intercom communication can be maintained in such a multilingual squadron (or other units) by closed TV circuits. I happen to have a degree in engineering and know what I am talking about, and therefore I cannot give up writing to you.

Now please do not push this letter off your desk to another and another department. Find out which department is really needed, or which knows of the symbols used in Vietnam or Nato, and inform me.

Thanking you I am,

Yours sincerely,
C.K. Bliss

After this letter there was silence, peaceful silence on the waters of the Potomac, and I was confined to the ravaging silence of my sleepless nights.

The End.