

**IOWA STATE COLLEGE**  
**OF AGRICULTURE AND MECHANIC ARTS**  
**AMES, IOWA**

DIVISION OF SCIENCE  
OFFICE OF THE DEAN

November 18, 1943

Dr. J. V. Atanasoff  
Naval Ordnance Laboratory  
United States Navy Yard  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Doctor Atanasoff:

From time to time I have sent copies of letters I have written regarding the closing of Project 300. The enclosed copy of a letter to Mr. Gregg was a bit optimistic in its last sentence. After I wrote this, we have had additional claims returned. I can explain those expenditures for paper and supplies and for hourly time for Miss Butler in terms of the additional records requested. One item that now remains is a charge from the Instrument Shop for six tubes, signed for by Legvold. Originally this was entered on our records as 300B (you will recall that we identified the B items as those that we were purchasing on overhead) but Miss Butler told me this morning that Legvold later told her to change this to an A charge, which would be direct.

I am at a loss to explain what these tubes were and why they constitute a direct charge when purchased after the close of the contract. It would be much simpler just to make this 300B because the \$5.65 is not worth much bother, yet I do not want to do that because of the impression it might give both to our own Accounting Office and to the O.S.R.D. Fiscal Office. Undoubtedly Sam will remember what these tubes were. The date of the sales ticket was December 1, 1942, and the number of it 71053. They were identified as 6 67C7 tubes.

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I have been intending to telephone you regarding our project. I had a series of discussions with Dr. Woodrow and he has agreed (and I fear after some salesmanship on my part) that under the circumstances we shall have to permit Legvold to remain there. He is also very much interested in the portion of the project which we can carry on here. The thing which the Navy will have to provide, however, is some one in Legvold's place, who was taking your place, for the theoretical courses for the winter quarter. You will recall that during our visit Dr. Weller suggested there would be several individuals able to take on this assignment. I think that the contract should include the cost of offering the



Dr. J. V. Atanasoff

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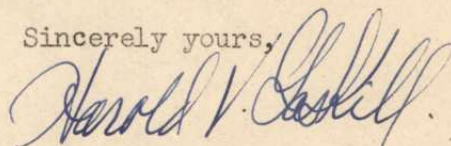
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theoretical physics as a portion of the project costs.

I am purposely making these details short, however, because I am going to suggest that you come to Ames, at which time we can discuss the setting up of the project much more satisfactorily than we could by correspondence and telephone. The reason for this is because I am distressed by Mrs. Atanasoff's condition. I am sure you won't misunderstand this statement and become unduly alarmed. I am sure <sup>also</sup> that our very close friendship would not make it inappropriate for me to suggest that you return for a brief "check up" on your family.

Apparently Elsie's remarkable recovery which I reported to you verbally recently in Washington was premature and optimistic. She has recently been confined again to bed and I think Mrs. Atanasoff is very greatly in need of confidence and reassurance from you. She has undoubtedly gone through severe strain and has not wanted you to know anything about it. I should therefore, of course, not want her to know that I had suggested your return. But knowing both the importance of our work and feeling fairly certain of Mrs. Atanasoff's state of mind, I think that you should plan very soon to spend a few days or perhaps a week in Ames.

Sincerely yours,



Harold V. Gaskill  
Dean

HVG:fm

*Enclosed clipping will interest you.*