

April 14, 1943

Selective Service Board
6 Nassau Street
Princeton, New Jersey

Attention Miss Jones

Dear Miss Jones:

Dr. Kurt Gödel, a member of the School of Mathematics of the Institute for Advanced Study, informs me that he has recently been reclassified and ~~down as~~ IA. *put in* Dr. Gödel, like most refugees from Nazi Germany, is eager to do anything he can in support of the American war effort, but under the circumstances I think I ought to inform the Selective Service Board that Dr. Gödel has twice since he has been in Princeton shown such signs of mental and nervous instability as to cause the doctors who were consulted to diagnose him as a psychopathic case. When he was here in 1938 this mental disturbance was so severe that it became necessary to send him back to his home in Austria. He responded so well to the treatment that we invited him again to come to the Institute in 1940 and he has been here since that time. Last year, however, the symptoms returned and it has been necessary for him again to have medical treatment, which was carried out under the direction of Dr. Vanneman, who knows more about the case than anyone in Princeton.

Mathematically, it would perhaps not be an exaggeration to call Dr. Gödel a genius. There are people who believe him to be the best man in the world in his particular phase of the subject. This ability, however, is unfortunately accompanied by certain mental symptoms which, while they do not prevent active work in mathematics, might prove serious from the standpoint of the Army. Dr. Vanneman would be the best person to supply you with medical details concerning this case.

Yours sincerely,

FA/MCE

FRANK AYDELOTTE, Director