



NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY

WASHINGTON 25, D. C. Serial: 000404-S  
2 Sep 1954

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE MEMBERS OF USCIB

SUBJECT: Revision of UKUSA Agreement

1. Pursuant to the decision recorded in USCIB: 14.1/21, a draft revision of the basic UKUSA Agreement was prepared at this Agency and was informally coordinated with the Executive Secretary, USCIB, during April 1954. At the same time, the Executive Secretary expressed the view that certain Appendices should remain under USCIB cognizance, while others should become working arrangements between the Directors, NSA and GCHQ. These two groupings, respectively, would be:

- a. Introduction to the UKUSA Appendices; Appendices A, B, G, I, J, P, and Q.
- b. Appendices C, D, E, F, H, K, L, M, N, and O.

2. With regard to the second grouping, the Executive Secretary suggested that the Director, NSA, should report annually to USCIB any significant changes in communications arrangements (Appendix H) or in relocation plans (Appendix N).

3. Subsequent to April 1954, this Agency has been drafting a detailed revision of the UKUSA documents along the lines indicated above. This project is nearing completion, and specific proposals on the subject will be coordinated with the Executive Secretary and submitted to USCIBEC as soon as possible.

4. A separate, but closely related action has developed in correspondence between the Directors, NSA and GCHQ (via SUSLO (L)). Significant developments are summarized below:

- a. In a memorandum dated 23 June 1954, the Director, NSA, received a revision of Appendix E proposed by GCHQ. The proposed revision was accompanied by GCHQ comments to the effect that GCHQ did not consider it necessary to submit the proposed revision to LSIB; that agreement between NSA and GCHQ would be sufficient in advance of the contemplated complete revision of all Appendices.

- b. On 13 July 1954, NSA notified GCHQ that NSA needs USCIB authorization to implement any changes which NSA and GCHQ might agree

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are required in Appendix E and certain other Appendices; that NSA was considering proposing that a note be added to the Introduction to the Appendices. The note would explain that several of the Appendices require revision by USCIB and LSIB. It would explain, further, the interim status of certain technical Appendices which might, according to the agreed views of NSA and GCHQ, require revision. The text of such an explanatory note was contained in this correspondence of 13 July 1954 for GCHQ comment.

c. GCHQ reply to the correspondence of 13 July 1954 was received in a memorandum dated 5 August 1954. The reply suggested several changes in the note as originally drafted at NSA. The proposed note, as revised by GCHQ, is as follows:

"On \_\_\_\_\_ 1954, USCIB and LSIB agreed that a general revision of the Appendices was required. They further agreed that as a first step toward such revision USCIB would furnish LSIB, for comment, detailed proposals which are being prepared by USCIB. Pending agreement by both parties on a general revision of the Appendices, the Directors, NSA and GCHQ, will:

- (a) determine jointly any changes which may be required in Appendices C, D, E, F, K, L, and M and
- (b) implement any such changes which they agree to be necessary.

Although this interim authorization enables the Directors, NSA and GCHQ, to change or interpret specified Appendices by mutual agreement, it does not require USCIB or LSIB to approve such changes or interpretations provided these are within the spirit and intent of current UKUSA policy."

d. The GCHQ reply mentioned in sub-paragraph c, above, also included the following comments:

- (1) "Director, GCHQ, is already authorized by LSIB to agree to changes in the Appendices when these changes merely affect technical COMINT matters and are not matters of inter-Board policy. The new proposed wording is therefore intended to avoid the suggestion that new 'authorization' is required from LSIB."

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(2) "Appendices H, N, and O (which are omitted from the GCHQ draft but were included in the NSA draft) directly affect member-agencies of LSIB other than GCHQ. For this reason, Director, GCHQ, considers that they would be more appropriately grouped with Appendices A, B, G, I, J, and P."

e. NSA reply to the GCHQ comments described in sub-paragraphs c and d, above, was forwarded on 24 August 1954. In that reply, the Director, NSA, concurred in the proposed note as revised by GCHQ, and indicated that the agreed version would be submitted to USCIB for approval. The Director, NSA, agreed further that Appendix E should be revised in accordance with the GCHQ draft.

5. It is recommended that USCIB:

a. Approve, as an addition to the Introduction to the UKUSA Appendices, the note quoted in paragraph 4c, above, and

b. Direct the Executive Secretary to arrange with the Secretary, LSIB, for USCIB-LSIB agreement on (1) the proposed note and (2) the date to be inserted therein.

FOR THE DIRECTOR:

  
L. H. FROST  
Rear Admiral, US Navy  
Chief of Staff

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