

~~TOP SECRET~~

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USCIB: 29.20/7

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13 May 1955

EO 3.3(h) (2)
PL 86-36/50 USC 3605~~TOP SECRET~~MEMORANDUM FOR THE MEMBERS OF USCIB:Subject:

Reference: USCIB 29.20/6, 4 May 1955.

1. Enclosure 1, a memorandum from the Secretary, LSIB on the above subject, and enclosure 2, informal views of SUSLO, London on LSIB intentions with regard to enclosure 1, are forwarded herewith.

2. Owing to the fact that this matter has broad implications with regard to U.S. COMINT relations with other NATO countries as well as with West Germany, it is requested that the members be prepared to discuss the enclosures as an additional item of the agenda for the 115th meeting of USCIB.



RUFUS L. TAYLOR
Captain, U. S. Navy
Executive Secretary, USCIB

Enclosures

1. MOP/4589 dtd 10th May 1955.
- 2 SUSLO, London MSG LW 399.

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MOP/4589

10th May 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, USCIB

Subject: Future Status of U.K. Sigint Units in W. Germany

I have been asked by the Secretary, LSIB, to pass you the following message:

"In connection with the restoration of West German Sovereignty as from 5th May 1955 LSIB has considered the future status of U.K. Sigint Units in West Germany and intends to take the following action:

- a) To place all U.K. Sigint Units in West Germany in the order of battle of U.K. Forces contributed to SACEUR's command:
- b) To inform the West German Government through the British Ambassador, in general terms, of the size location and purpose of these units:
- c) To inform A.C. of S. (I) SHAPE of the action being taken at a) above.

"2. As regards a) LSIB has been advised that, juridically as far as concerns NATO, the units must either be placed under SACEUR's formal command or be specifically exempted from that command by the North Atlantic Council. The Board thinks it essential to legalise the position vis-a-vis SACEUR and considers that its proposed course of action will achieve this with least difficulty and least publicity. The units will be placed on the same footing as other U.K. forces which in time of war would come under the direct control of SACEUR.

"3. As regards b) the West Germans are already aware of the existence and purpose of one U.K. Sigint unit in Germany, the tasks of which are primarily ELINT, and it is thought certain that they must have deduced the existence and purpose of the others. Nonetheless LSIB considers it prudent to advise the West German Government formally in order to assure their general cooperation from the outset and to forestall any difficulties which they may raise now or later about the retention of the units in situ.

"4. In informing A.C. of S.(I) SHAPE as at c) LSIB will stress that in peace time the units will remain under national control.

"5. LSIB would welcome any views which USCIB may have on this matter and would be grateful to know whether USCIB proposes taking similar action."

PL 86-36/50 USC 3605



~~TOP SECRET EIDER~~

P 111407Z (MAY 1955)
FM SUSLO, LONDON
TO EXEC SECTY USCIB
INFO DIRNSA

LW 399.

1. YOU SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED BY NOW THROUGH SUKLO LSIB PLAN FOR FUTURE OF UNITED KINGDOM SIGINT UNITS LOCATED IN SOVEREIGN WEST GERMANY.
2. AS ERIC JONES HAD PREVIOUSLY INFORMALLY ADVISED ME (LW 314 REFERS), ALTHOUGH HE CAN NOT BE HELD TO IT, THAT "BUT IN ANY CASE IT IS HIS INTENTION TO HAVE BOARD TO BOARD CONSULTATION SO EACH SIDE FULLY AWARE OTHER SIDE ACTIONS", I ASKED SECRETARY LSIB IF ACTIONS A, B AND C OR ANY ONE OF THEM HAD ACTUALLY BEEN TAKEN OR WAS IT LSIB INTENTION WAIT FOR USCIB COMMENT PRIOR TAKING ANY ACTION.
3. WHILE CERTAIN IN MY OWN MIND LSIB WAS PLANNING PROCEED ON OWN TIME TABLE IRRESPECTIVE COMMENT FROM USCIB, PERRIN REPLIED NO ACTION TAKEN YET AND WOULD BE MOST GRATEFUL RECEIVE USCIB COMMENTS SOONEST, PREFERABLE BEFORE TAKING THE 3 STEPS OUTLINED IN MEMO TO YOU.
4. WHILE ALL ABOVE UNOFFICIAL IT GIVES YOU A MODEST AMOUNT OF TIME MAKE OTHER PROPOSALS, IF USCIB DEEMS WORTHWHILE, PRIOR TO ACTION BY UNITED KINGDOM AUTHORITIES.