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USCIB: 13/350

13 July 1953

~~TOP SECRET - SECURITY INFORMATION~~

MEMORANDUM FOR THE MEMBERS OF USCIB:

Subject: Making Classified Security Information  
Available to Foreign Nationals.

The enclosed copy of a memorandum for the Secretary of Defense from the Director, NSA, is forwarded for information.

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

Enclosure-  
Copy of NSA Serial 000370-S  
dtd 6 Jul 53, above subject.

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NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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Serial: 000370 S

6 JUL 1953

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Making Classified Security Information Available to Foreign  
Nationals

References: a. Memo by Secretary of Defense, subject as above,  
dated 4 June 1953  
b. National Security Council Intelligence Directive No. 9  
Revised, dated 24 Oct 1952

1. Receipt of reference a. is acknowledged.

2. Under the provisions of paragraph 3 of reference b, which states in part: "Orders, directives, policies, or recommendations of any authority of the Executive Branch relating to the collection, production, security, handling, dissemination, or utilization of intelligence, and/or classified material, shall not be applicable to COMINT activities, unless specifically so stated and issued by competent departmental or agency authority represented on the Board [United States Communications Intelligence Board]," it appears that the Director of NSA is automatically exempted from provisions of the President's memorandum dated 25 May 1953.

3. I believe, however, it is incumbent upon me to abide by the spirit of the President's memorandum and I wish to assure you that special precautions are taken in ascertaining the security clearance of officially accredited foreign liaison officers to NSA and USCIB, and for foreign visitors from collaborating COMINT agencies. In all cases, both visitors and liaison officers are officially certified as to appropriate clearances by their national COMINT agency before access to classified U. S. security information is authorized. Reciprocal arrangements allow U. S. liaison officers and visitors to be accepted upon certification of clearance by NSA or USCIB.

4. In a separate memorandum of the same date, concerning the subject memorandum, the President stated that certain security agencies, i.e., CIA, FBI, and the intelligence agencies of the military services, may waive paragraph 1a of the above-mentioned directive in connection with the passage of information incident to operations which the above security agencies determined to be of net advantage to the United States.

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5. Although the waiver authorized by the President is quite broad in scope, I believe that under the terms of agreements with foreign collaborating COMINT Agencies, release of COMINT under the permissible conditions of the President's waiver is proscribed, except as may be specifically authorized by USCIB. Because of the peculiar nature of COMINT material and its susceptibility to complete loss and cut-off in the event of a compromise, detected or only suspected, by a target nation, COMINT never has been and must not be considered to be in a category subject to release under the conditions allowed by the President's supplementary memorandum.

RALPH J. CANINE  
Lieutenant General, US Army  
Director

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