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TENTATIVE

SUBJECT NUMBER

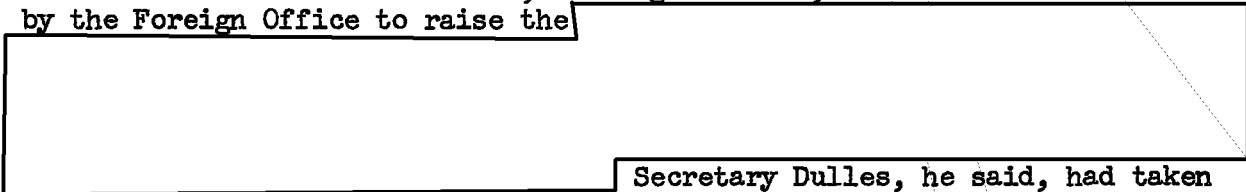
EO 3.3(h)(2)
PL 86-36/50 USC 3605

USCIB: 29.3/34 Item 5 of the Agenda for the 103rd Meeting of USCIB, held on 14 May 1954.

Subject: French Communications Security.

THE ACTING CHAIRMAN (General Cabell) informed the members that Mr. Armstrong wished to present information on this subject for consideration by the members.

MR. ARMSTRONG stated that on 22 May 1954 the Secretary of State had received the British Ambassador, Sir Roger Makins, who had been instructed by the Foreign Office to raise the



Secretary Dulles, he said, had taken note of the request, informing the Ambassador that he would refer the matter to appropriate authorities and provide an answer as soon as he could.

Mr. Armstrong continued by saying that he had discussed the request with Mr. Allen Dulles prior to making a recommendation to the Secretary and, since that time, has obtained the Secretary's views, which are to the effect that this is an inopportune time to make such an approach because of (1) the uncertain status of the present French Government, and (2) the situation which now obtains as a result of the recent Security discussions in Paris. He said that the Secretary favors a reply which will inform the British that we cannot agree to their proposal at this time, and added that he had prepared a draft memorandum from the Chairman, USCIB, to the Secretary of State which he would like to read for consideration by the members. His draft memorandum was as follows:

"1. The United States Communications Intelligence Board (USCIB) has considered carefully the UK proposal -- presented to you on May 8, 1954 by Sir Roger Makins -- that immediate steps be taken to



"2. As you know, a combined US-UK plan to improve French communications security without [redacted] was set in motion last March at the government level; and technical talks covering three agreed phases of this plan were concluded with the French only on May 1, 1954. It is believed that these talks have been effective, particularly with reference to French practices

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in Indochina. It is also believed that a reasonable period of time must be allowed for the French to take action on the facts presented to them, and for the

Finally, it is believed that an approach to the French along the line suggested by the British Ambassador could have a deleterious effect on the steps already taken and, especially at this time, might even have a poor effect on US-UK relations with France.

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"3. USCIB recommends, therefore, that the British request be refused at this time."

The members approved this reply.

The members noted the information presented.

DECISION: (14 May 1954) USCIB considered the British request presented by Mr. Armstrong and agreed to reply, via memorandum from the Chairman, USCIB, to the Secretary of State, with a recommendation that the British request be refused at this time. It was agreed that the text of the memorandum would be as proposed and read by Mr. Armstrong.

This item to be dropped from the agenda.

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