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Mr. Friedman
S/Asst.

REMARKS

Note comments on Skelley's proposal

FROM NAME OR TITLE

Shumaker

DATE

7 Nov 54

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : NSA-30

DATE: 9 November 1954

FROM : NSA-31

SUBJECT: Comments on Skellett's Coding and Decoding Machine

Mr. Skellett's proposed machine is cryptographically the equivalent of "twisting" the rotors in a maze (i.e., displacing the right contact face of each rotor with respect to the left face) rather than stepping each rotor as a unit in which the relationship between the input and output contact points remains fixed. Theoretically, this principle has some attractive possibilities and this particular approach is one which we have never considered in the design of cryptographic equipment. The basic principle, however, is very similar to one of the proposals for an alphabet generator (electronic rotor) which is currently under investigation. As to this particular embodiment, it appears that plain text radiation might be a serious problem and we believe that there are better ways of accomplishing the same, or an equivalent result. The suggestion is appreciated, however, and a copy of Mr. Skellett's paper has been made for the Division's files.

J.R. Chiles
J.R. CHILES
Ass't Chief, Communication
Security Equipment Division

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