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THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

TOP SECRET

15 June 1949

Note * / was

MEMORANIZIM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE:

Subject: Maximum Exploitation of CUMINT.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff have considered the staff study on maximum exploitation of Communications Intelligence (CONIMI) and the draft consolidation directive establishing a Consolidated Special Information Dissemination Office (CONSIDO) forwarded by your memorandum dated 19 May 1940 and have the following comments:

a. The provisions of the draft consolidation directive would decrease rather than increase the efficiency and economy of communication intelligence activities of the National Military Establishment. Considerable duplication of the work of other U.S. intelligence agencies would be necessary, if CONSIDO-WASHINGTON were to fulfill the responsibilities assigned to it. In addition, the draft directive states that CONSIDO-WASHINGTON will disseminate intelligence direct to the Joint Chiefs of Staff but makes no provision for the integration of such intelligence with intelligence provided to the Joint Chiefs of Staff by the intelligence staffs of the Services.

b. The draft directive would divorce evaluation of CONINT from evaluation of all other intelligence, a situation which would militate against accurate evaluation of both CONINT and non-CONINT intelligence. Since COMINT, as intelligence, is not essentially different from other types of intelligence, any organization which isolates its evaluation from that of other sources is unrealistic.

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g. By making CONSIDO-WASHINGTON subordinate to the Director, Armod Forces Security Agency, and thereby removing it from the intelligence chain of the National Military Establishment, the draft directive fails to provide for the expeditious use of CONINT in support of the command functions of the Service Departments and for the satisfaction of vital operational requirements of commanders in theaters of combat.

d. The draft directive is not in consonance with the provisions of MSCID #9, which established the U.S. Communication Intelligence Board to effect authoritative coordination of COMINT activities of the government.

In view of the above serious disadvantages of the proposed consolidation directive, the Joint Chiefs of Staff recommend that the action contemplated not be taken.

For the Joint Chiefs of Staff:

(SIGNED)

LOUIS DENTELD, Admiral, U.S. Navy.