

FINAL  
~~TENTATIVE~~

~~TOP SECRET - U.S. EYES ONLY~~

SUBJECT NUMBER

USCIB: 4.2/50      Item 2 of the Agenda for the 30th Meeting of USCIBEC, held on 26 May 1955.

Subject:            Exception to Provisions of USCIB Directive No. 15.

The CHAIRMAN (Captain Taylor) introduced this item by explaining that the NSA member, while not recommending disapproval of the request of the Air Force member contained in USCIB 4.2/44, had asked that the matter be considered further as he is interested in obtaining a more precise idea of the responsibilities of the Division Commanders of the Continental Air Defense Command (CONAD). He then presented Colonel John H. McCann, USAF, Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff, Intelligence, CONAD, stating that Colonel McCann would brief the members on the mission and responsibilities of CONAD.

(Note: At this point, Colonel McCann presented a detailed picture of the CONAD organization, mission, and responsibilities with particular emphasis on the role played by the Air Defense Division Commanders.)

At the conclusion of Colonel McCann's presentation the CHAIRMAN asked the NSA member if the presentation had provided the information he desired.

CAPTAIN HOLTWICK replied that he is still somewhat in doubt as to whom the CONAD Division Commanders would have occasion to disseminate Category III and II COMINT.

LT. COLONEL HARROLD expressed his view that it is not a question of dissemination but one of taking action. He cited as an example the fact that the Commander might be required only to scramble aircraft. USCIB Directive No. 15, he continued, provides the Commander of a Numbered Air Force with authority to determine the existence of emergency conditions justifying exceptional handling of individual items of Category III and II COMINT. It is the Air Force view, he concluded, that the responsibilities of the Division Commanders of CONAD, as outlined by Colonel McCann, substantiate their need to be vested with the requested authority.

CAPTAIN HOLTWICK responded that taking action is one form of dissemination but authority for exceptional dissemination includes many things in addition to taking action.

MR. POLYZOIDES remarked that he did not clearly understand what the Committee would be protecting by denying the Air Force request and suggested that the NSA member identify the specific point at issue.

CAPTAIN HOLTWICK replied that the basic issue is the difference between authority to take action and authority to disseminate.

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MR. GODEL stated that we are talking about an emergency of sufficient gravity to justify exceptional dissemination of Category III COMINT.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the members briefly review the provisions of USCIB Directive No. 15 to see if the responsibilities of the Division Commanders of CONAD substantiate the Air Force recommendation that they be designated as exceptions to the lowest level of authority permitted to determine the existence of an emergency justifying the exceptional handling of individual items of COMINT. It appears, he continued, that if we agree that the Division Commanders have such responsibilities then we are obliged to honor the request of the Air Force member.

CAPTAIN HOLTWICK recommended that USCIB go on record as authorizing the Division Commanders of CONAD to take action but denying authority to disseminate.

MR. POLYZOIDES referred to paragraph IV 2 of USCIB Directive No. 15 which lists the lowest level of authority permitted to determine the existence of emergency conditions justifying exceptional dissemination and action. Continuing, he pointed out that the Air Force member, as well as Colonel McCann during his presentation, had explained that, for the purposes of USCIB Directive No. 15, the responsibilities of the CONAD Division Commanders are the same as those of the Numbered Air Force Commanders. It therefore seems to me, he commented, that the Air Force request boils down to simply granting the Division Commanders of CONAD the same authority that has already been provided Numbered Air Force Commanders.

LT. COLONEL HARROLD expressed an affirmative view and went on to point out that arrangements had not been made to furnish Category III material to the Air Defense Command at the time USCIB Directive No. 15 was approved. The organizational structure has since changed, he said, and CONAD Division Commanders have been assigned responsibilities requiring the same authority as presently vested in Numbered Air Force Commanders.

The CHAIRMAN noting that a majority appeared willing to recommend approval of the Air Force request, asked if there is anyone not willing to accept the majority view.

CAPTAIN HOLTWICK said that he would bow to the will of the majority.

The CHAIR restated the proposed decision recommending approval of the Air Force request in light of the foregoing discussion.

CAPTAIN HOLTWICK voiced his concurrence subject to the understanding reached during this meeting and as reflected in the minutes.

It was so agreed.

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DECISION: (26 May 1955) USCIBEC with the understanding that Air Defense Division Commanders of CONAD have responsibilities comparable to those Commanders of Numbered Air Forces, and further that such Division Commanders may need to take action based upon COMINT of any Category to protect the vital interests of the United States, agreed to recommend approval of the request contained in USCIB 4.2/44 of 21 April 1955 and consequent amendment of the subject Directive.

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