

USCIB: 29.17/18

~~HANDLE VIA COMINT CHANNELS ONLY~~

28 February 1955

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~~TOP SECRET~~

MEMORANDUM FOR THE MEMBERS OF USCIB:

Subject: COMINT Relations with

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

- References:
- (a) USCIB 29.17/13 of 31 January 1955.
  - (b) USCIB 29.17/15 of 14 February 1955.
  - (c) USCIB 29.17/16 of 15 February 1955.

1. Further to the decision of USCIB at its 112th meeting with regard to reference (a), USCIBEC has considered the matter in the light of the discussion at the 112th meeting of USCIB and other available factors.

2. USCIBEC has also taken note of the below stated unanimous technical opinion on the material listed in reference (a) and of the U.K. views received in answer to reference (b) as set forth in reference (c).

3. Referring to the enclosure with reference (a) it is the unanimous opinion of the technical advisors available to USCIBEC through the Army, Navy, Air Force, NSA and CIA and of the members of USCIBEC themselves that:

a. The AN/APR 9 equipments listed in item 3(a) of reference (a) are primarily ELINT but do have limited COMINT uses. They are currently in critical short supply in the U.S. and those that are available are being monopolized as a high priority item in the ELINT effort.

b. The SKL chain amplifiers listed in item 3(b) of reference (a) may be used for either ELINT or COMINT, principally the latter. They are an unclassified item available commercially.

c. The Signal Generators listed in item 3(c) fall in the same category as the AN/APR 9 Receivers listed in item 3(a). They are in fact test devices for maintenance of the AN/APR 9 Receiver.

d. The Kay Sonograph (item 3(d)) is a commercial item used extensively for either ELINT or COMINT purposes.

e. The Clark VHF Receivers listed in item 3(e) are used extensively for both ELINT and COMINT. They can be made available, but not immediately.

f. The SCR-291 HF/DF equipments listed in item 3(f) are solely COMINT items and are now considered obsolete in the U.S. They are also unavailable. More modern equipment, such as the AN/CRD-2A, is understood to be available. It is considered appropriate to offer a substitute under the circumstances and the AN/CRD-2A is considered suitable for that purpose.

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Declassified and approved for release by NSA on 05-01-2014 pursuant to E.O. 13526

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4. From the evidence available it appears to USCIBEC that those of the equipments listed which are primarily of an ELINT nature (items 3(a) and 3(c)) but do have limited COMINT uses are, in the first place, probably not intended by the [redacted] for COMINT use and, in the second place, are not the best equipments to satisfy the COMINT uses to which they might be put. Further these equipments are in critical short supply in the U.S. In this connection, USCIBEC is advised that the AN/APR 4 or its Navy shipborne counterpart the RDO and SPR-2 is a better equipment for decimetric communications search and could be more easily made available though probably not in the quantity requested.

5. USCIBEC is therefore of the opinion that USCIB should not undertake to try to supply any of the items listed in paragraphs 3(a) and 3(c) of the enclosure with reference (a).

6. USCIBEC feels that USCIB should be as frank as possible with LSIB on this matter.

7. It is therefore recommended that a message as set forth in the enclosure herewith be sent to SUSLO, London for delivery to the Chairman, LSIB from the Chairman, USCIB in reply to the enclosure with reference (a).

8. If there is no objection by the close of business Tuesday, 8 March 1955, the enclosed message will be considered approved.

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

Enclosure  
a/s

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D R A F T

FROM: EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
TO : SUSLO, LONDON  
INFO: DIRNSA

PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING TO THE CHAIRMAN, LSIB FROM THE CHAIRMAN, USCIB:

1. USCIB has carefully considered the list of equipments contained in your Secretary's note of 21 January 1955 (LSIB/28/55) and has asked that the comments set forth below be conveyed to your Board.

2. USCIB is prepared to provide items 3(B), (D) and (E) as listed. Item 3(E) is, however, not currently on hand. The Director, NSA has been directed to arrange for procurement and delivery of these items and will, if it is agreeable to you, handle the matter directly with the Director, GCHQ.

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3. Item (F), the SCR-291 HF/DF equipments, is unavailable and is, as you are no doubt aware, considered by our people to be obsolete. Was there a particular reason why  requested this? We believe we could obtain AN/CRD-2A's for them if acceptable in place of the SCR-291.

4. Items 3(A) and 3(C), the AN/APR 9 receivers and the signal generators, are in critical short supply and their use has been for all practical purposes pre-empted as a high priority item for current ELINT requirements. USCIB therefore cannot undertake to supply those items.

5. However, to the extent that ELINT equipment needed for COMINT search is involved in Item 3(A) of your list, USCIB can obtain for you a limited quantity of AN/APR-4 equipments (or its U.S. Navy shipborne counterpart the RDO and SPR-2) as more suitable for UHF communications search, if they are necessary to successful COMINT negotiations, even though these are also in short supply.

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D R A F T

6. While we wish to do everything possible to prevent any disruption of UKUSA COMINT negotiations with the [redacted], we must again point out that USCIB has no cognizance in the ELINT field. USCIB therefore is not in position to divert ELINT equipment from U.S. ELINT use or to arrange discontinuance of direct U.S. approaches to [redacted] on ELINT matters.

7. USCIB is informed that the U.S. already has well advanced arrangements to supply ELINT equipment to [redacted] in return for [redacted] ELINT and that GCHQ is aware of these arrangements which commenced in the spring of 1954 and are continuing.

8. Your comments would be appreciated.