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MEMORANDUM FOR ADMIRAL E. J. KING, U.S.N.

Subj: Army Air Force Communication Intelligence Activities.

1. Indications have been received that the Army Air Force is proceeding independently with radio intelligence operations in the Pacific. In the latter part of April, a memorandum request was received from the Chief of Training Plans Division, Army Air Force, for the training of a small group of officers in certain naval communication intelligence matters. This request was referred to the Chief of the Special Branch, G-2, who expressed opposition to the plan and recommended that the request be returned to the originator for forwarding via G-2. Shortly after receipt of this request, our communication intelligence center under CINCPOA reported that the Army Air Force was apparently contemplating the setting up of a large radio intelligence company in some forward area, probably Kwajalein, to function presumably as part of the organization of the local Air Force Commander.

2. At a meeting of the Army-Navy Radio Intelligence Coordinating Committee on 10 May, the question was raised by the Navy representatives as to the status of the Army Air Force radio intelligence units in the Pacific. In reply it was stated that SSA, the Service Forces radio intelligence organization, was required to train the personnel but exercised no control over the Air Force organization, although some technical coordination had been agreed upon. After some discussion, it was agreed by the committee that, in view of the Presidential directive regarding coordination of cryptanalytical activities and on the basis of actual operating experience in the Pacific, effort should be made to establish some central control, preferably through SSA, of the Army Air Force radio intelligence operations, in order to avoid duplication of effort and to insure proper handling of resulting intelligence.

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3. While it would appear that the problem of getting the Army Air Force units under control is strictly an Army matter, SSA and G-2 have both endeavored without success to gain control and would now welcome any assistance we might be able to give them in reaching a solution. We are definitely interested parties in view of the Navy's participation in a joint allocation agreement and also because the Navy, through CINCPOA, is ultimately responsible for operations in the Pacific.

4. In view of the foregoing it is recommended that the attached letter be sent to General Marshall for the purpose of obtaining a statement as to plans of the Army Air Force in the radio intelligence field and explaining the Navy's interest therein.

4. In view of the foregoing it is recommended that you address a communication to General Marshall expressing your views on the matter.

F. J. HORNE
Vice Chief of Naval Operations