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25 May 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR DEAR ADMIRAL WOODS

SUBJECT: Systems for dissemination of COMINT to and within SACUR's Command (USCIB; 30/2)

PL 86-36/50 USC 3605

1. The subject was discussed informally with representatives of the [redacted] and [redacted] with representatives of AFSA (Dr. H. H. Snow and Mr. C. C. Coffey) on 23 May 1952 but only on the basis of agreeing upon a recommendation for a system to be instituted only if and when a policy deal had been reached between USCIB and LSIB on the question of providing a common US-UK COMINT cryptographic system for use in those times for the dissemination of COMINT to and within SACUR's command (par. 5-7, USCIB; 30/2).

2. It was agreed that the low anticipated volume of traffic and the great need for security indicated a recommendation that the most appropriate system initially to be instituted could be lateral one-time pads (OTAP). These pads could be provided either by the US or UK.

3. It is recommended that LSIB be notified of this informal discussion and tentative agreed recommendation.

4. For your own information, it was stated that if the pad system were instituted and if the traffic load should become so great as to require introduction of a machine system, the conference thought it would be feasible to provide the kind of number of commands concerned with British TypeX Mark 22 machines, to be used in simple procedure. It was the sense of the meeting that the offer would not be made known to the USCIB Secret by Committee or to SRPP, but should be held in reserve by AFSA and COMC against the possibility that the one-time pad system, once introduced, might prove inadequate for the traffic load.

WILLIAM V. PRIEMAN
Commandant

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