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15 April 1954

A. WITH REGARD TO ALLEGED FAILURE OF NSA TO ACCUMULATE SUFFICIENT DEPTH TO SOLVE THE HIGH-LEVEL PROBLEMS:

1. On the high-level systems of our present target countries it is true that we lack the capability of providing 100% completely adequate coverage of the major intercept targets because of:

- a. Insufficient intercept facilities.
- b. Insufficient number of qualified intercept operators who can be kept on the job any considerable length of time after they have become proficient.

2. With reference to la. above, that deficiency is being eliminated as rapidly as practicable by the build-up of already authorized increases in intercept facilities. With reference to lb. above, that deficiency is beyond NSA's power to alter and is probably beyond the jurisdiction of the three Armed Services, which provide by far the greatest portion of the intercept personnel. (All except CIA.)

3. It is also true that NSA is presently handicapped by a lack of a sufficient number of experienced and fully trained analysts, both cryptanalysts and traffic analysts. But by internal and extensive advanced-training programs NSA is slowly overcoming this handicap. In addition, NSA lacks a sufficient number of qualified supporting personnel, to assist the analytical personnel. Efforts have been in progress for some time with a view to correcting this deficiency.

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B. With regard to the question of lack of centralized evaluation, currently NSA does not have any responsibilities for evaluating the products of its COMINT operations into "finished intelligence". I believe, however, that collaboration between NSA technicians and research analysts representing the consumers of the NSA and products would greatly improve the intelligence that can be derived from COMINT activities.

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