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Department - State

**Arrangements to Have the Department of State
Maintain Military Attache SIGROD Machines**

1. AS-23 AS-80 17 Feb 48

1. Through informal contacts with Mr. R. V. Anderson, Division of Cryptography, Department of State, it has been determined that the State Department has maintenance personnel located in ten major embassies throughout the world from which cipher machines located in cities near those embassies are maintained on regular schedules. These technicians travel on diplomatic passports and are accorded diplomatic privileges. Consequently, they can move from one country to the next with comparative ease. In discussions with Lt. Colonel Henry Miller, Assistant Executive for Administration, Department of the Army, he has stated repeatedly that it would be extremely difficult to increase the Tables of Organization of any Military Attache office in order to accommodate a maintenance man and that, owing to the small size of attache offices, it would work a hardship to send personnel back to the States for nine weeks of training.

2. An attempt was made in a teleconference, 21 November 1947, to have the United States Army, Caribbean provide maintenance for the Military Attaches in Central and South America. However, the United States Army, Caribbean stated that in order to assume this burden they would have to increase their Tables of Organization and also secure the qualified maintenance personnel to fill the vacancy. They have no qualified personnel at the present time. Nothing further has been heard from the United States Army, Caribbean on this problem but an inquiry as to its status has been forwarded. Colonel Miller stated that it is possible that the Director of Intelligence would be able to bring pressure on the Personnel and Administration Division to approve the United States Army, Caribbean request for an increase. With the exception of the western hemisphere, the Army is not in a position to contribute much to the maintenance of attache SIGROD machines. In Europe the difficulty of travel in the Iron Curtain area makes it almost mandatory that the State Department perform the service. In the Far East the lack of Army installations in India, China, and Australia, and the distances involved make Army maintenance impractical.

3. Therefore, the best solution for the present is to utilize the State Department maintenance personnel. However, this Agency should actively pursue the establishment of maintenance facilities at the United States Army, Caribbean.

4. Inclosed is draft of a letter to the State Department requesting that Military Attaches cipher machines be included on the regular State Department maintenance tours. It is requested that this letter be approved and forwarded to the State Department by the Director of Intelligence.

Declassified and approved for release by NSA on 04-15-2014 pursuant to E.O. 13526

1 Incl
Draft of ltr to
State Dept with
Draft IOM to D/I

*Beind used as
Trans. reference
complete letter
MX-783/u SIG-ROD
Maintenance*

A. SINKOV
Chief, Security Division
Extension 241

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