

~~TOP SECRET - U.S. EYES ONLY~~

~~TENTATIVE~~  
FINAL

SUBJECT NUMBER

USCIB: 13.7/14      Item 4 of the Agenda for the Fourteenth Meeting of USCIBEC, held on 29 April 1954.

Subject:              Emergency Dissemination of COMINT to Non-indoctrinated Persons (USCIB 13.7/11).

THE CHAIRMAN. (Captain Taylor) reviewed the background of this item, explaining his cover memorandum (USCIB 13.7/11) and pointing out the need for some changes in the proposed Directive on Emergency and Operational Dissemination of COMINT.

The members commented at length upon the scope of the terms "British Commonwealth of Nations" and "Third Parties". The majority of the comments dealt with the feasibility of defining the terms with a footnote, or agreeing upon an appropriate substitute therefor.

[redacted] suggested consideration of the question of referring problems of disguised dissemination and action in the absence of cover to USCIB for decision when there is time.

OGA THE CHAIRMAN replied that the proposed Directive is intended to be applicable to conditions of both peace and war and that taking action during war is a vital part of the Directive. He emphasized the fact that the important point is action in the absence of cover. Appropriate commanders during war, he continued, should have authority to take proper action during emergencies without being required to think about referring the matter to USCIB for a decision although in peace or quasi-peaceful conditions they would be likely to do so without being told. He added that he did not think it sound to issue a directive applicable to peacetime without at the same time preparing a suitable one for war. In this case, he said, he felt that a Directive that doesn't cover both would not be sound.

[redacted] then expressed a desire to hear other views on this point.

MR. POLYZOIDES stated that although this subject is substantially a military one, it should not be dealt with solely from a military viewpoint. He pointed out that since we can't define the kind of a war we might have and there should not be any question as to what constitutes an extreme emergency, the language of the proposed Directive did not appear to be unduly restrictive.

COLONEL TOWNSEND expressed his view that a decision to take action is one that no commander would take lightly knowing full well the possible consequences. He rather leaned toward the academic interpretation of the

USCIB: 13.7/14

~~TOP SECRET U.S. EYES ONLY~~

USCIB: 13.7/14

word "emergency" and felt that the Directive should not be written in such a manner that the commander, during an emergency, would be required to think about referring the matter to USCIB for decision before taking action.

MR. KEAY said that he would like to associate himself with Captain Taylor's and Colonel Townsend's views.

MR. POLYZOIDES pointed out that the Directive did not require the commander to come to USCIB for a decision if he felt there was not sufficient time to obtain such a decision.

CAPTAIN AGNEW expressed the view that the proposed Directive was unnecessarily complicated and could be best expressed in several short Directives rather than one long Directive attempting to cover several different conditions and circumstances.

On the question of whether or not the proposed Directive could be made less complicated, the CHAIRMAN explained that the requirements of Appendix "B" are a complicating factor and illustrated his point by exhibiting and describing a draft proposal he had drawn up himself in an attempt to simplify the problem. He said he found it necessarily complicated by Appendix "B". The general idea of his proposal, he explained, is that the recipient of a particular Category of COMINT would have the experience, knowledge and background information to use it appropriately otherwise he shouldn't be given it. The names of individuals in Washington and commands previously approved by USCIB as requiring the COMINT in question and who might be expected to perceive emergencies requiring action would be kept on file. Changes would have to be notified to USCIB and actions taken in the absence of cover or to disguise COMINT would have to be reported to USCIB which could then exercise corrective surveillance. Otherwise a free hand within the limitations of Appendix "B" would be permitted in his proposals.

The ensuing discussion indicated a difference of opinion amongst the members regarding these proposals. Some felt that the proposed Directive could not be simplified and adoption of the Chairman's views could result in action being taken by a recipient who would not have access to all of the information he would need to arrive at the proper conclusion. Others believed that further study of both proposals would be worthwhile. Further discussion concluded with the consensus that there was general agreement but the matter should be referred to INTCOM for clarification and changes in accordance with the discussion at this meeting. The views of each member would be passed on to his INTCOM representative for resolution of differences; the rewritten version then to be forwarded to USCIBEC members for vote sheet action

USCIB: 13.7/14

- 9 -

~~TOP SECRET - U.S. EYES ONLY~~

USCIB: 13.7/14

if differences of opinion could be reconciled. If not, the divergent views would be reported to USCIBEC.

DECISION: (29 April 1954) USCIBEC agreed:

a. To accept the proposed Directive on Emergency and Operational Dissemination of COMINT in principle but to refer it to INTCOM for modification and careful review of:

- (1) Paragraph III Scope.
- (2) Footnotes 1 and 2.
- (3) Comments by the Executive Secretary contained in USCIB 13.7/11 dated 19 April 1954.

b. Each member to brief his INTCOM representative with respect to a position on the proposed Directive so that final action might be hastened.

c. To have INTCOM consider the views of all members and forward a revised Directive to the Executive Secretary, USCIB, for vote sheet action if unanimity is reached. Otherwise the divergent views are to be reported to USCIBEC for resolution.

USCIB: 13.7/14

- 10 -