

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

FINAL

SUBJECT NUMBER

USCIB: 29.1/11 Item considered at the 98th (Special) Meeting of USCIB, held on 7 January 1954.

Subject: Loan of ROCKEX Crypto System to the Western Germans for the Period of the Foreign Ministers' Conference (USCIB 29.1/10).

The CHAIRMAN called the meeting to order and explained that the Board had before it a matter of some urgency, the details of which were contained in USCIB 29.1/10. He said that it had not been possible to resolve the problem by individual contact with the members, and that the State member had asked for this special meeting.

CAPTAIN TAYLOR informed the Chairman that he had just received from Brigadier Tiltman additional information on the subject, which he would like to pass on to the members. He distributed copies of the following:

"TELEGRAM FROM DIRECTOR, GCHQ, TO SLO, WASHINGTON, 7 JAN 54.

'We have not taken any action regarding French during Berlin Conference and would welcome action by U.S.

No further comments at this stage except to voice two thoughts:

(i) That, if and when offer is actually made, Germans may refuse Rockex on grounds of suspicion that we may retain duplicate tape. We would do all we could to allay such suspicions with special regard to second thought:

(ii) Seizing opportunity to ascertain by all possible means as much as we can of current German crypto practices, trends and intentions.'

"The above is in reply to two telegrams from SLO WASHINGTON, the second telling Director GCHQ that there was to be an emergency meeting on morning of 7th January, and the first containing the following passage:

'We do not seem to have taken any action regarding French ComSec during Berlin Conference. It seemed to me that it would be easier for U.S. to take action in view of approach to White House for help in connection with Bermuda conference and of French request to CIA for help.'

/s/ J. H. Tiltman, 7 Jan 54"

USCIB: 29.1/11

- 3 -

~~TOP SECRET FROTH~~

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

EO 3.3(h)(2)
PL 86-36/50 USC 3605

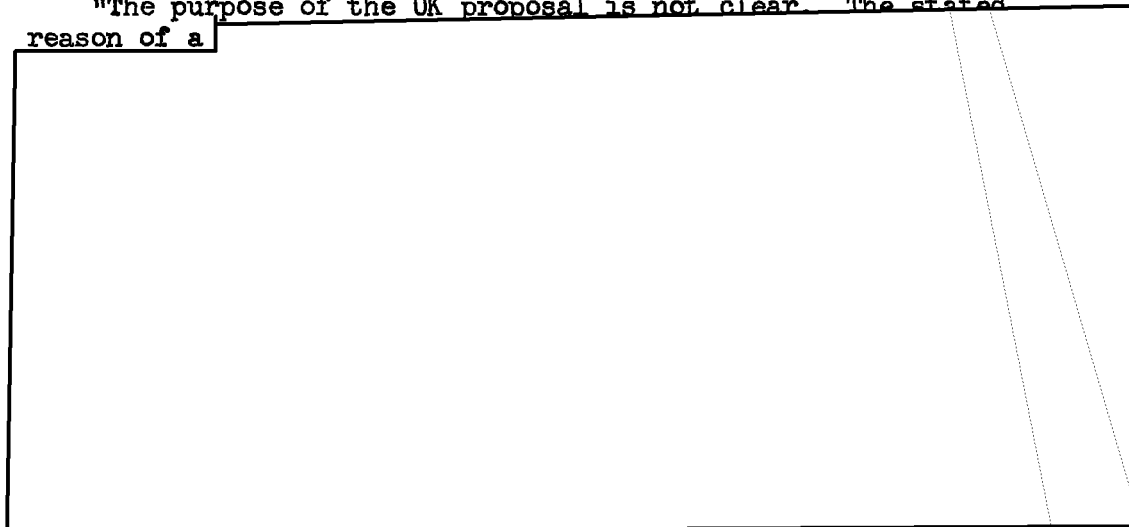
USCIB: 29.1/11

The members noted the above information.

The CHAIRMAN invited Mr. Armstrong to present the views of his Department.

Mr. Armstrong, after expressing the concern of his Department in this matter, made the following presentation:

"The purpose of the UK proposal is not clear. The stated reason of a



"In the absence of overriding necessity, the act of giving



USCIB: 29.1/11

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

USCIB: 29.1/11

The members held a lengthy and detailed discussion of the implications and possible involvements of the proposed U.K. action, following which a draft reply to Brigadier Tiltman, prepared by the Executive Secretary, was considered.

The Board also discussed at some length the implications of French communications security during the Berlin Conference and what action, if any, should be taken by the U.S. in this regard, bearing in mind the opening sentence of the 7 January 1954 communication from Brigadier Tiltman referred to above. It was agreed that the Board should inform the British that we had this matter under study and would advise them of any action contemplated. In addition, the State Department member, Mr. Armstrong, was asked by the Chairman to assess the risks to the success of the Conference and to the security of the U.S. which may be expected to arise from the insecurity of French communications and report to the Board his views on this matter together with any recommendations he might see fit to make.

Regarding a specific reply to the U.K. Memorandum (USCIB 29.1/10), the Board ultimately agreed that NSA and State representatives would meet with the Executive Secretary to amend the draft reply to Brigadier Tiltman along lines indicated by the Chairman, based upon the Board's discussion.

DECISION: (7 January 1954) The decision reached by USCIB in this matter is reflected in the following memorandum, which was approved by the NSA and State representatives as agreed in advance by the Board and forwarded to Brigadier Tiltman:

"MEMORANDUM FOR THE SENIOR U.K. LIAISON OFFICER:

Subject: Loan of ROCKEX to Bonn Government for Use During Foreign Ministers' Conference.

Reference: Director, GCHQ Message Number 051420Z/1/54.

1. The request contained in the reference, which was referred to USCIB by the Director, NSA, was considered by our Board at a Special Meeting this date.

2. The Board is unable to perceive what cryptologic advantages are to be gained and would appreciate the U.K. view in that regard. The proposal raises certain questions in the minds of our members, many of which would, no doubt, be answered by a more complete statement of the reasons for this

USCIB: 29.1/11

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

USCIB: 29.1/11

move. Our Board would be grateful if you could obtain any further information which can be imparted regarding necessity for the action, how the approach is to be made, including



3. With regard to the problem of the security of French communications for the Berlin Conference, USCIB is studying the matter further and will advise if any action is contemplated.

RUFUS L. TAYLOR
Captain, U. S. Navy
Executive Secretary, USCIB"

EO 3.3(h)(2)
PL 86-36/50 USC 3605

USCIB: 29.1/11