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NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

24

13 October 1954

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

MEMORANDUM FOR THE MEMBERS OF USCIB

SUBJECT: Terms of Reference for Negotiating a New COMINT Agreement
with

Reference: Inclosure with USCIB 29.16/4 dated 3 Sept 1954

1. At its 106th Meeting on 10 September 1954, USCIB approved the reference with the understanding that detailed minimum security standards for the guidance of the negotiators would be prepared at a later date by the Ad Hoc Committee.
2. The Committee met on 11 October 1954 and unanimously approved the inclosed draft entitled "Minimum Security Standards for the Classification, Transmission and Physical Security of COMINT," and agreed to forward it to USCIB with a recommendation for approval.
3. It is to be noted that the draft is an extension of, and should be used in conjunction with, Tab B of the reference. If approved by USCIB, it is suggested that the draft be incorporated in the reference as Tab G.

John J. Davis

JOHN J. DAVIS
Colonel, Arty
Chairman, USCIB Ad Hoc Committee

Incl:
a/s

Declassified and approved for release by NSA on 04-28-2014 pursuant to E.O. 13526

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MINIMUM SECURITY STANDARDS FOR THE CLASSIFICATION,
TRANSMISSION AND PHYSICAL SECURITY OF COMINT

1. All COMINT resulting from the U.S. [] COMINT Agreement will be classified as agreed between the COMINT authorities of both nations, and will be distributed only to those COMINT indoctrinated individuals who require it in the performance of their duties.

a. The U.S. will classify COMINT materials provided to [] as SECRET or TOP SECRET, according to content. Material classified as SECRET CODEWORD by the U.S. will normally be classified TOP SECRET for exchange with [] Non-codeword materials will be classified for this exchange in accordance with the appropriate U.S. classification, except that no COMINT material will be classified lower than SECRET.

b. The U.S. will accept COMINT materials from [] classified either in accordance with existing [] policy, or with U.S. [] agreement on [] application of para 1 above.

2. The COMINT authorities of each nation will insure against revelation of the source of COMINT resulting from the agreement by carefully controlled handling procedures for every sheet of paper containing results from, or disclosing the existence of this agreement; and, if deemed desirable, special supplementary codewords will also be used.

3. The U.S. and [] will use agreed exchange designators to cover the following aspects of U.S. [] COMINT liaison under the terms of the agreement:

a. COMINT materials (including results derived therefrom) provided by the U.S. to [] which can be integrated

TAB G

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into [] COMINT products.

b. COMINT materials (including results derived therefrom) provided by the U.S. to [] which must be given special handling, and which cannot be passed to other than [] personnel without prior specific consent of the U.S.

c. COMINT materials provided by [] to the U.S. (If [] agrees to use supplementary codewords as in 2 above, such codewords may be used to cover, insofar as practicable, these aspects of U.S. [] COMINT liaison.)

4. If [] desires to use some device or special handling procedure for protection of COMINT source instead of supplementary codewords, and does not want individual sheets of material marked with agreed exchange designators, it shall be permissible to use the designator on the cover sheet(s) only for each shipment of material. In this event the U.S. must be assured that all such material will receive limited and controlled handling and distribution within the [] COMINT activity.

5. Documents containing COMINT information should be double-wrapped and addressed to a COMINT indoctrinated officer (by name, not function); the inner envelope should bear the appropriate security classification. As a minimum security requirement, such documents must be sent by hand of officer or by a secure courier service.

a. Documents from the U.S. to [] will be addressed to a designated [] COMINT recipient, and will be transmitted to such

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recipient through the NSA Liaison Officer in [] The NSA Liaison Officer will receive from the [] recipient properly executed receipts for all materials delivered.

b. Documents from [] to the U.S. will be addressed to and delivered to the NSA Liaison Officer in [] He will receipt for all materials so received.

6. If COMINT material is transmitted within either nation by electrical means or by any physical means not completely secure, it must be encrypted in a secure cryptographic system reserved exclusively for this requirement. The COMINT authorities of each nation must additionally insure that when COMINT is transmitted to the other it is encrypted in a cryptographic system specially approved by COMINT authorities of the other nation.

a. Electrical communications between the U.S. and [] COMINT organizations will be so arranged that it will not be possible to identify such communications as being between the respective COMINT organizations.

b. The U.S. will establish a private crypto system for direct communications between the NSA Liaison Officer and the Director, NSA. This system will be the exclusive channel for passing communications which must be handled in COMINT channels only.

c. Messages from [] to the U.S. will be passed via channels specifically agreed upon between the U.S. and []

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7. The highest standard of physical security must be applied to the custody of COMINT by all persons authorized to receive it. Normally, except when in transit under conditions prescribed herein, COMINT materials and communications relating thereto must at all times be:

a. under the direct surveillance of a COMINT indoctrinated person responsible for their safe-keeping, or

b. locked in a three-combination safe accessible only to COMINT indoctrinated personnel, or

c. stored in a locked compartment which is under constant surveillance by an armed sentry and which is accessible only to COMINT indoctrinated personnel.

8. COMINT documents must be destroyed as soon as they have ceased to be of use. This is particularly important under hazardous conditions.

9. In order that necessary operational use can be made of certain agreed types of low-level tactical COMINT (such as direction finder bearings and plain text messages - Category I COMINT) on which immediate action must obviously be taken in combat operations, the U.S. or National Authorities may permit the dissemination of such COMINT at a classification not below CONFIDENTIAL, to unindoctrinated recipients who need to know.

10. In exceptional instances where it is essential for immediate operational purposes, information based on COMINT may, as specifically authorized by appropriate National COMINT authority, be disseminated to unindoctrinated individuals, provided the source is not disclosed. Where

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possible, names, times, positions, and other data identical with that from the original text must be omitted, or if the retention of such an item is essential, must be carefully paraphrased. Such information must be passed by a secure dispatch service, by a secure line, or in a cipher system approved by the National COMINT authority for this requirement. It must not be passed in clear by radio (including radiotelephone.)

11. Each nation will immediately report to the other any compromise or possible compromise of COMINT materials produced or exchanged under the terms of this agreement.

12. Each nation will expand these standards into a set of regulations adapted to local conditions. Copies of the COMINT security regulations so developed will be exchanged through COMINT channels.