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Serial: N 0985

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21 MAR 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

(ATTN: General G. B. Erskine, USMC-Ret,
Assistant to the Secretary of Defense,
Special Operations)

SUBJECT: State Department-Defense Department Exchange Program (U)

1. The program outlined by the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower) in his memorandum, subject as above, dated 16 January 1961, seems to be an opportune means of prompting mutual understanding and cooperation in communications security matters at the departmental level. The interrelationship between State and Defense in this area was recognized by the National Security Council when it established the Special Committee for COMSEC matters.

2. In support of ^{existing objectives} the objectives of the subject program, I am prepared to assign a ~~high caliber~~ individual (GS-17 or GS-16) to State, preferably to serve on the Cryptography Staff. I am also prepared to integrate a State Department Officer into the NSA COMSEC Organization. If, however, State is unable to provide an officer, it would not affect the NSA interest in assigning an individual for such training.

3. It is requested that you sponsor participation for NSA in such a program. It appears that the exchange of selected individuals between NSA and State would be of great benefit to both Organizations.

4. Inclosed is a draft Memorandum for use as you see fit. Please call Mr. Paul E. Neff, Director, Communications Security Organization, Oxford 60501, if you require additional information.

/s/ L. H. FROST

L. H. FROST
Vice Admiral, USN
Director

Incl:
a/s (dup)

Declassified and approved for release by NSA on 01-10-2014 pursuant to E.O. 13526

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cc: DIR ←←←
AG
Reading File
CSEC
~~CSEC-011~~
CSEC-04 (2)

M/R: NSA and State have experienced some difficulty in developing a common understanding of COMSEC matters. The referenced ASD (Manpower) Memo is received as affording an excellent means of improving NSA-State relationships. The exchange of NSA and State Department personnel has been discussed briefly with the Director, NSA by the Director, CSEC.

Miss K.M.Ross/CSEC-04/2192/mk/8 Mar 61

Added M/R: Mr. Neff, Dir/CSEC, requested that CSEC-04 use the office title Asst Sec Def (Manpower) in Para 1. No official verification of DOD change from Asst Sec Def (Manpower Personnel & Reserve) was obtained but title change may be due to reorganization of Dept of Defense.

M. Patterson/AG-103/3624/dbt/13 Mar 61

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7 March 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (Manpower)

SUBJECT: State Department-Defense Department Exchange Program (U)

1. I have noted your Memorandum, on the subject program, dated 16 January 1961. It seems that through such cross-training considerable benefit could accrue to communications security interests in the areas of mutual concern where foreign and military policy overlap. To that end, I am interested in sponsoring an exchange of personnel between the Department of State and the National Security Agency. The Department of State participates in the formulation of COMSEC policies and plans governing other Federal departments and agencies, and in guiding the actions of the Director, NSA in international COMSEC matters. In addition, the security of the communications of the Department of State is a matter of interest to the SECDEF as the Executive Agent for the government for COMSEC.

2. NSA has agreed to assign a GS-15 or GS-16 to the Office of Secretary of Defense for duty under this program at State, preferably on the Cryptography Staff. You may be assured that the person selected will be of the highest caliber, with a comprehensive understanding of communications security and related matters.

3. NSA is also prepared to integrate into its COMSEC organization an individual from the Department of State for the two-year program. Such an offer, however, need not be limited to members

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of the Cryptography Staff. Mutual benefit could also be gained if the State representative came from the Bureau of International Affairs, the Office of Security, or the Division of Communications Services.

4. If State cannot participate in the exchange of personnel, it would not affect my interest in having an appropriate person from NSA serve at State. Please let me know if you require any additional information or action from me in processing this arrangement.

Copy Furnished:
ASD(ISA)