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11 January 1950

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Rhoads

Subject: [redacted] present status of.

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

1. While distinctions are mostly guesswork because we are unable to read the traffic, AFSA-03 attempted this week to separate the various types of [redacted] on a more useful basis than that formerly employed. Henceforward short titles will be assigned as follows:

[redacted]

2. Intercept coverage: The volume of traffic on the air originated by these [redacted] organizations is enormous. To distinguish among them or to compile accurate figures is difficult because each uses the other's circuits. At the present time 15 U.S. intercept positions are allocated to [redacted]

[redacted] Since the bulk of the traffic originates [redacted] / an equal or somewhat greater volume is intercepted by the British. All British intercept is forwarded to us. Estimates of total traffic available is, again, guess work, but combined U.S. and British intercept certainly does not exceed 60% of the total.

3. Cryptanalytic personnel: During December, 1949, 26 Navy and 14 Army U. S. cryptanalytic personnel were assigned to the [redacted]

[redacted]

Their figures do not break this number down into specific categories.

4. Ciphers employed: [redacted] Except for a few messages which have been found where [redacted] no traffic has been read. A disquieting development in [redacted] was the abrupt drop in intercept volume on 20 December on all [redacted] By 25 December all [redacted] traffic had disappeared. Intercept of later date has shown that [redacted] circuits remain normal. Latest traffic received seems to indicate that [redacted] units have shifted to digit systems, but it is too early to assert with any degree of assurance that the rise in 5-digit intercept represents a true shift from the [redacted] machine. It is possible that this is an emergency usage prompted by the loss of a [redacted] but any theories on the meaning of the decline in [redacted] are pure guess work at the present time.

It should be noted that in the past [redacted] has not been held exclusively by the [redacted] In addition to the 2,000 per month volume intercepted from [redacted] a small but steady flow has come in from such organizations as the [redacted]

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There are at least two [redacted] and the actual number may be as high as six. Our meager knowledge makes accurate classification of systems impossible. One system was shown this week to employ a [redacted]. An interim report on the discovery has not yet been issued because [redacted]. Two systems may be represented, of course, but work on the pair continues. Most of the digit ciphers are apparently supposed to be one-time pad systems.

[redacted]

[redacted]

Respectfully,

J. A. SALFORD

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