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WDSS-23

30 January 1946

SUBJECT: Assignment of Officers to State Department

TO: Deputy Chief, Military Intelligence Service
Room 2B 800, The Pentagon
Washington 25, D. C.

1. On 26 April 1944 the Secretary of State requested two officers be detailed to his Department, one to serve as Director of the Department's Code Room and the other as Assistant and Adviser in the State Department Cryptographic Unit.
2. The Secretary of War on 6 May 1944 named Second Lieutenant (now Captain) Frank H. de Beaulieu, of the Office of the Chief Signal Officer, for the first position and Captain James G. Keel, of the Signal Security Agency, for the second position. Captain Keel was later replaced by Major Robert S. Leasher, also of Signal Security Agency.
3. Major Leasher, who is serving as Assistant Chief of the State Department's Division of Cryptography, will be leaving the Army about 1 February 1946 and the question arises as to whether Army Security Agency will be required to furnish a replacement for him.
4. Recent losses of officers qualified in communications security and cryptographic work have been so great that Army Security Agency does not have a replacement immediately available who could be recommended for Major Leasher's assignment. Moreover, in view of the large number of military and naval officers trained in communications security and cryptographic activities who have recently been separated from the service, it is probable the State Department could now obtain a qualified civilian employee for the position.
5. It is therefore recommended that the Secretary of State be asked to review the need for continued service of a military officer in the State Department's Division of Cryptography. The enclosed draft of a letter, for signature of the Secretary of War, has been prepared for this purpose.
6. It should be pointed out that the Chief Signal Officer may also be interested in this matter in view of the fact that, in accordance with the Secretary of War's letter of 6 May 1944, Captain de Beaulieu of his

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office was detailed to the State Department Code Room at the same time an officer was selected from Army Security Agency for the Department's Division of Cryptography. It is not known what plans the Chief Signal Officer may have in mind regarding Captain de Beaulieu's continued assignment to the State Department, and it is therefore suggested that the proposal to withdraw the cryptographic officer from the State Department be coordinated with the Chief Signal Officer.

7. Copies of the Secretary of State's letter of 26 April 1944 and the Secretary of War's reply of 6 May 1944 are inclosed.

3 Incls

1. Draft of ltr for signature Sec War
2. Ltr in Sec State, 26 Apr 44
3. Ltr in Sec War, 6 May 44

W. PRESTON CORDERMAN
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

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~~DRAFT~~

30 January 1946

The Honorable

The Secretary of State

Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On 6 May 1944, at the request of Secretary Hull, the War Department detailed two military officers to your Department, one to serve as Director of the Department's Code Room and the other to serve as Assistant and Adviser in the Cryptographic Unit.

The second of these positions is held by Major Robert S. Lasher, who is serving as Assistant Chief of the Department's Division of Cryptography. Major Lasher will be leaving the Army within a few days and I regret to say that due to the rapid demobilization of the Army and the consequent separation from service of a large number of military personnel trained in this type of work the War Department does not have a replacement immediately available to recommend for his assignment.

Assignment of military officers in 1944 to the State Department positions mentioned above was necessary because of the acute shortage at that time of civilian personnel trained for cryptographic work.

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The situation at this time is somewhat changed. Our continuing loss of officers qualified for communications security and cryptographic assignments, resulting from the Army's reduction in strength, prompts me to ask that you review the need for further service of an officer in the position now assigned to Major Lesher. I am hoping that with the practices and procedures now established in the Department's cryptographic activities you may find it convenient at this time to replace him with a Civil Service employee.

A rather considerable number of military and naval officers who had extensive experience during the war in communications security and cryptographic work have now returned to civilian status, and it is probable that several of these men would be interested in a position of this type in your Department.

I would appreciate an expression of your views at the earliest opportunity regarding the further need for an Army officer in the Division of Cryptography. If you find it convenient to assign a civilian to this position, the War Department will be pleased to continue its assistance and cooperation to Major Lesher's successor in cryptographic and communications security matters.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary of War

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~~G.O.P.I~~

6 May 1944

The Honorable,
The Secretary of State,
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Referring to your letter of April 26, 1944 discussing measures for the establishment of effective security procedures in your Department, I am pleased to comply with your request for the detail of a qualified military officer to assume full direction of the Department's Code Room and another to serve as an Assistant and Adviser in the Cryptographic Unit.

For the position in the Code Room I am designating Second Lieutenant Frank Hugo de Beaulieu, (O-1641223), Signal Corps. Lieutenant de Beaulieu has been assisting in the operation of the Code Room since the early part of the year and is believed to be well qualified for this important duty. I hope this selection is acceptable to you.

With regard to the position as Assistant and Adviser in the Cryptographic Unit, I am designating Captain James Gordon Mook, (O-464343), Signal Corps. Mr. Salmon of your Department is personally acquainted with this officer and has informally expressed his satisfaction with the selection.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary of War.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington

In reply refer to
A-6

April 26, 1944

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My dear Mr. Secretary:

Pursuant to an exchange of correspondence with him on the subject of communications security, General Marshall suggested, in a letter to me dated April 17, 1944, that it would be advisable for a survey of the Department's cryptographic systems and security measures to be undertaken by the Joint Communications Board, on which both the War and Navy Departments are represented. Steps for having such a survey made are now being taken.

As an additional measure for establishing the most effective security procedures, with the best available personnel, I request that, if practicable, you detail to the Department of State one qualified military officer to assume full direction of the Department's Code Room and another to serve as an Assistant and Adviser in the Cryptographic Unit. Because of the urgency and the importance of the matter, I should greatly appreciate it if these details could be made at the earliest possible date.

Simultaneously I am requesting the Secretary of the Navy to detail to the Department an officer to act as an Adviser on security matters. He will be attached to the office of Assistant Secretary G. Howland Shaw, the Department's Security Officer. I hope that through this proposed cooperation of the Army and the Navy it will be possible to establish a system of security which will safeguard the essential interests of the Government as a whole.

Sincerely yours,

s/ Cordell Hull

The Honorable
Henry L. Stimson,
Secretary of War.

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