MEMORANDUM for Commander Read

Subject: Standardization of Security Practice

On 9 October 1944, a message was received from Colonel Bicher, SIS officer, ETO, forwarding information received from SHAPE. A paraphrase follows:

BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION SEE SECURITY PRECAUTIONS IN COMBINED NAVAL HEADQUARTERS ANCIF AT ST. GERMAN IN COMBINED BRITISH AMERICAN CODE ROOM CSP 889 (SIGABA) LOCATED IN ONE CORNER TWO CABINETS PROVIDE PROTECTION FROM VIEW. THERE IS NO DOOR, SIGABA IS UNCOVERED AND AVAILABLE FOR VIEW WHENEVER THE ONE US NAVAL OFFICER ON EACH WATCH HAS OCCASION TO LEAVE THE ROOM, BASKETS AND ROTOR IN REGULAR VIEW. IN CABINETS ARE STORED SPARE PARTS, KITS TAPE AND DOCUMENTS, MATTER HAS BEEN DISCUSSED WITH SECURITY OFFICER, ANCY, WHO STATES HE HAS NO INSTRUCTIONS FROM HIGHER HEADQUARTERS OTHER THAN AS WRITTEN IN BASIC CRYPTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTS LEAVING HIM TO INTERPRET POLICY STATEMENTS CONTAINED THEREIN. SAME INTERPRETATION OF SECURITY POLICY MAY EXIST IN OTHER NAVAL INSTALLATIONS. SPECIFIC DIRECTIVES ON ALL MATTERS OF SECURITY HAVE BEEN ISSUED BY THIS OFFICE AND INSPECTIONS MADE TO INURE COMPLIANCE WITH DIRECTIVES BY ALL PERSONNEL. SUGGEST YOU CONTACT NAVY WASHINGTON TO HAVE THE HIGHEST NAVAL HEADQUARTERS IN THIS THEATER CONFER WITH THIS OFFICE SO THAT SECURITY PRACTICES MAY BE STANDARDIZED.

2. It is believed that the best interests of all concerned would be served if the Army and Navy followed the same security practices in connection with the handling of SIGABA.

3. Attached hereto is Adjutant General's letter outlining the policy to be followed by the U.S. Army personnel in the handling of SIGABA. It recommended that a similar policy be adopted and issued by the Navy.

PRESIDENT CORDELL
Colonel, Signal Corp
Commander

Declassified and approved for release by NSA on 08-27-2014 pursuant to E.O. 13526