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Categories of NSA Specialties

PERS Planning Group

S/ASST
(Mr. Friedman)

8 Jan 54

1. In reference to your DF, dated 22 December 1953, subject: "Categories of NSA Specialties," it appears that the committee concerned made an effort to establish general categories of specialties along functional lines. This is considered a good initial step.

2. After studying the proposed list, some of the specific observations made include the following:

(a) The functions of P/P, LOG, PERS, and TNG are completely omitted. In order to execute the Agency's War and Disaster Plans, skilled personnel will be needed to fulfill some of the functions of each of these.

(b) Under the group title, Cryptographic Equipment and Material, the listed functional specialties of Research, Design, and Production omit the functions of Procurement, Maintenance, Distribution and Accounting. Further, this group seems to be overlapped, if not duplicated, by the group titled "Crypto-Material."

(c) Under the group title, T/A, are listed several functions. However, the entire incoming sorting and distribution functions are omitted. Further, it would seem reasonable to include Radio Telephone and a specific reference to the Scrambler and/or Multiplex functions.

(d) The listings under Crypto-Linguists seem to omit the need for linguists who are not necessarily cryptanalysts.

(e) The group title Signal Deception is itself a misnomer. In regard to the Ciphony and Cifax functions listed, it would seem appropriate to include the functions of Procurement, Operation and Maintenance.

(f) Under the group title, Mathematics, it might be desirable to include specific references to those personnel currently familiar with applied key studies, theoretical research, and long-term machine programming.

(g) Under the Weather function, it might be well to include specific references to weather codes and cipher systems, ice, rivers, etc.

(h) The functions listed under Management are not clear.

(i) The functions listed under Communication omit operations.

2. The following general observations are made:

(a) The suggested list of NSA Specialties cover some broad functions, and a few specific functions.

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(b) Some broad functions necessary to execute the Emergency War and Disaster Plans and to sustain the Agency under emergency conditions are omitted.

3. In the light of the foregoing, it is suggested that:

(a) The next group who meet to discuss this problem include personnel who are familiar with the overall NSA mission and the Agency's War and Disaster Plans.

(b) The suggested list be expanded into a more complete list of critical NSA functions and that it be made more specific so that ultimately the names of personnel can be inserted into the list down to the level required for the successful execution of the Agency's War and Disaster Plans.

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