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EO 3.3(h) (2)

9 March 1954

MEMORANDUM TO: DD/FRCD
C/S

SUBJECT: COMINT Tasks

1. The current mission of the COMINT organization is:

- a. To collect records of foreign tele-communication transmissions.
- b. To extract and deliver, with minimum delay, the information they carry.
- c. To utilize available resources with greatest efficiency.

This requires that effort be concentrated on those transmissions from which the maximum amount of the most important intelligence can be produced.

2. Tele-communication transmissions of all foreign nations are involved. Objectives in support of the mission include communications transmitted by or for each government department, military and non-military, of each nation. Communications originated or transmitted by non-government agencies, companies, and individuals may also be objectives.

3. In order to reduce the multiplicity of objectives, an objective may include all transmissions of each of certain smaller nations. Where the countries involved are of lesser potential intelligence importance, several geographically or politically grouped nations may be included in one objective. I consider it practicable to consolidate the list of objectives to one numbering between 50 and 100.

4. To achieve each objective, one or more tasks in support of that objective must be accomplished. Each task can be stated in the form: To produce COMINT information by collection and -

- (a) Decryption of (Objective) messages [encrypted in (type)
systems.]
- or, (b) Exploitation of (Objective) Type II Traffic.
- or, (c) Study of (Objective) plain text messages.
- or, (d) Traffic-analysis of (Objective) radio transmissions.

5. In accomplishing each task under each objective, some or all of such functions as intercept control, interception, transportation, identification, sorting, routing, scanning, selection, distribution,

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crypt-analysis, recovery, decryption, translation, digesting, reporting, publication, must be performed. Analysis and control of operations require the segregation, by task, of statistics relating to each function applicable to that task. It will be necessary to establish definitions and listings of functions, and of statistics pertaining to those functions. These lists should be so designed as to be usable for cost accounting and work measurement purposes as well as for operational reports.

6. In order to facilitate my control and direction of COMINT operations, I desire that the Deputy Director, Production, prepare at the earliest practicable time a COMINT TASK LIST, including therein all tasks which might be performed not only in PROCD but in field and collaborating COMINT activities. Provision must, of course, be made for operations which are unapportionable except among broad groups of objectives, or are common to all, as well as for tasks under the general objective of maintaining technical continuity and progress in the field of COMINT collection, analysis, and processing.

7. This TASK LIST will be used by all elements of NSA as the basic index to which COMINT planning, programming, budgeting, cost accounting, operational direction, apportionment of effort, statistical audit, analysis, and Operations Research will be aligned and oriented. Captain Holtwick, Special Assistant to the Director, will have staff cognizance of this project. As soon as may be practicable, its use will be extended to field and support operations, and to joint reporting involving collaborating agencies.

3. It is further planned that the SECIB be asked to present supplementary guidance to the Director, NSA, in the form of an arrangement of the TASK LIST in order of the priority in which accomplishment would be desired in the event that any, but not all, tasks could be done. Such a priority List should overcome certain limitations inherent in the current Intelligence Requirements List.

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RALPH J. CANINE
Lieutenant General, US Army
Director

cc: V/DIR
(M) ~~Friedman~~ /ASSTs
R/D
COMP
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LOG
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