

BRIEFING SHEET FOR THE CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF MEETING, 1400, THURSDAY

9 APRIL 1953

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER 9

J.C.S. 2074/25

SUBJECT: REPLACEMENT OF THE COMBINED CIPHER MACHINE

Berry withdrawal

BACKGROUND:

1. In reply to a request by the British Chiefs of Staff for a decision by 1 January 1953 on the cryptoprinciple to be used in the replacement of the current Combined Cipher Machine (Enclosure to J.C.S. 2074/23), the Joint Chiefs of Staff stated that they could not concur in the British recommendation to adopt the BRUTUS cryptoprinciple because that cryptoprinciple is no longer viewed with favor. Instead, the Joint Chiefs of Staff preferred the ADONIS cryptoprinciple for reasons of greater cryptosecurity and for the logistical advantages it offers; and if service tests of the AFSAM-7 incorporating the ADONIS cryptoprinciple are satisfactory, that machine will be adopted as a basic cryptographic system for U.S. joint communications. A period of four months was given by which time service test results were expected. The Joint Chiefs of Staff would then inform the British Chiefs of Staff of their decision on the cryptoprinciple to be adopted.

CURRENT REPORT:

2. Basically, the AFSAM-7 is of sound design and workable. The manufacturer has only recently grasped the full importance of the production of this machine and is now whole-heartedly endeavoring to expedite the production of satisfactory equipments. The first production models of the AFSAM-7 exhibited some faults which must be corrected before useful service tests on production models can be conducted.

3. In correcting the major production faults of the AFSAM-7, there have been delays which necessitate re-scheduling the service test period. Consequently, final judgment based upon the outcome of these service tests must be deferred for an estimated two months.

4. A memorandum for the British Chiefs of Staff (Enclosure to J.C.S. 2074/25) informs them of the two-month deferment on the final decision, and also, in light of the considerable interest they have in using the AFSAM-7 for Combined communications as well as for use in the U.K. military Services, tells them of the major production difficulties and steps taken to correct them.

5. Since the preparation of J.C.S. 2074/25, four production models of the AFSAM-7 received on 1 April 1953 were shipped to the London Cypher Policy Board on 3 April and nine models will be shipped by 10 April, all for U.K. service testing.

RECOMMENDATION:

6. It is recommended the J.C.S. 2074/25 be approved.

Ralph J. Canine
RALPH J. CANINE

Lieutenant General, US Army
Director

Briefing Sheet Prepared by Mr. James H. Douglas
Plans and Policy Div.
Ext. 60421

cc: Secy, Joint Chiefs of Staff, ATTN: Mr. Kearney (5)
NSA Pentagon Liaison Group (2)

cc: AG
C/S
P/P

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Deputy Associate Director for Policy and Records

On 20130708 by REM