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June 20, 1942

From: The Commander-in-Chief, United States Fleet
 and Chief of Naval Operations.

To: The Commander-in-Chief, United States Atlantic Fleet
 The Commander-in-Chief, United States Pacific Fleet
 The Commander, Southwest Pacific Force.

Subject. Control of dissemination and use of radio intelligence.

1. The extreme importance of radio intelligence as a reliable source of enemy information has been repeatedly demonstrated. From no other form of intelligence can the enemy's intentions be so positively determined.

2. In view of these facts, it is imperative that every possible precaution be taken with regard to controlling the dissemination and use of radio intelligence in order to avoid drying up its sources. Any disclosures in the past with regard to the source of radio intelligence have invariably resulted in an immediate change in the enemy's communications and the consequent loss of weeks or months of painstaking effort on the part of our radio intelligence personnel. It is recognized, of course, that radio intelligence is of no value unless proper operational use can be made of it. However, momentary tactical advantage is seldom worth the risk of compromising the source, for such compromise will stop the flow of information and thereby vitally affect operations on all fronts and in all areas.

3. In order to further the maintenance of high security in regard to radio intelligence, the following regulations for the dissemination and use of this intelligence are hereby prescribed:

- (a) The utmost secrecy shall be used in dealing with decryption intelligence, i.e., information resulting from the reading of enemy encrypted despatches.
- (b) Radio intelligence should be passed on to subordinate commanders only in the form of operational directives whenever practicable.

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- (c) When such intelligence must be given out to lower commanders as information it should be passed without any reference to its secret source and should contain, somewhere near the beginning of the message, the word "ULTRA" or the word "ZEAL."
- (d) Special care must be taken in every command to insure that radio intelligence is provided with special security safeguards and is seen and handled by the absolute minimum number of persons required for its use. Cryptographic systems of the highest available security and the narrowest distribution which includes the originator and addressees shall always be used for transmitting radio intelligence.
- (e) Every effort must be made to avoid indicating any connection between the source of intelligence and the outcome of operations. When action is based on radio intelligence, local commanders will insure that the action cannot be traced to this source of intelligence alone. All copies of radio intelligence messages should be destroyed by burning as soon as possible after being read. Ships at sea, where enemy action is possible, should take particular precautions to destroy all evidences of intelligence sources in order that there may be no possibility of their falling into enemy hands.

/s/ E. J. KING

Copy to.
The Commander, South Pacific Force.
The Director of Naval Intelligence
The Director of Naval Communications

By Officer Courier.

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