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NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

11 January 1955

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SUBJECT: Decentralization of the National COMINT Effort

TO: Chief, Army Security Agency
The Pentagon

Director, Naval Communications
The Pentagon

Commander
U. S. Air Force Security Service
San Antonio, Texas

Reference: NSA letter, subject as above, dated 30 August 1954

1. The reference indicated that I was preparing a plan outlining COMINT tasks to be decentralized to your units during the next two years. This plan, the details of which are contained in the inclosure, has been completed and is forwarded herewith for implementation. The tasks selected for decentralization are those most susceptible to field exploitation and which will produce information of direct benefit to the Commanders whom your units are supporting. The deadline for decentralization of each task was set in accordance with the priority of each task and with the current, known capability of each unit to assume the task by the date indicated.

2. The plan provides for complete decentralization of some tasks and for joint NSA-field processing of others. The distinction was made on the basis of the current state of exploitability of the tasks indicated. Thus, it will not be unusual for a task to be shifted from joint status to a fully decentralized status as the exploitability of the task increases or for a fully decentralized task to be placed in a

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joint processing status if the exploitability decreases. It is emphasized, however, that all of the tasks listed, whether scheduled for eventual full decentralization or not, will be handled on a joint responsibility basis from the moment you are able to begin your initial effort on each task until you have acquired all of your personnel for the task or the deadline date for actual decentralization arrives, whichever is sooner. In this way, we can not only launch a more extensive and representative field operation at the earliest practicable date, but we can also accelerate the pace at which your units are placed in a state of wartime readiness.

3. The personnel figures reflected in the plan represent the minimum numbers required for each task to insure adequate daily coverage seven days a week and are additional requirements above those required for tasks previously decentralized. For your planning purposes, therefore, it will be necessary to apply a realistic additional factor to the personnel estimates to compensate for losses caused by leaves, troop-training, on-job instruction, military work details, etc. The plan provides estimates for specialist personnel only and does not include clerical or other personnel required for ancillary duties.

4. You are requested to furnish me with the following information at the earliest practicable date:

a. Your capability to meet or better the deadlines set for full decentralization;

b. Your estimates of the numbers of specialist personnel required after you have applied the additional factor mentioned in paragraph 3 above;

c. Your estimate of the numbers of clerical and other non-specialist personnel required to accomplish the assigned tasks.

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5. It is recognized that the changing nature of COMINT is such that no program of this type can be inflexible. For this reason, this plan will be kept under continuing review. You will be given every possible advance notification of any changes to the plan which may require modifications in your own planning. To this end, it is also necessary that you keep me informed on a current basis of your capability to meet and maintain the assigned tasks.



RALPH J. CANINE
Lieutenant General, US Army
Director

Incl:

NSA Field Processing Decentralization Plan

Copies furnished:

Chief of Staff, U. S. Army
Chief of Naval Operations
Chief of Staff, U. S. Air Force

cc: AG
V/DIR
C/S
DD/PROD
DC/S
S/ASST (Friedman) ~~_____~~
S/ASST (Holtwick)
P/P (3)
NSA-062 (5)
063
70
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