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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY SERVICE FORCES

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

SPSIS-3

3 March 1944

*File Dept
State Dept*

MEMORANDUM For Colonel Corderman:

Subject: Assistance to the State Department on
Cryptographic matters.

1. I have given the matter of assistance to the State Department some more thought and believe that it might be useful to outline to you below a project for your consideration. This takes into account both the near-term and long-term point of view.

2. For the near-term or immediate needs I suggest that converters M-325 be supplied in sufficient quantity to cover a world-wide communication network for the Department. For such stations which have a small amount of traffic the hand-operated 325 would do very nicely, but for stations having a considerable volume of traffic it would be advisable to furnish automatic equivalent 325's by an appropriate conversion of Sigaba units. This converted unit would not disclose any of the principles of the Military-Naval Sigaba and would permit of high speed intercommunication between the Department and the embassies. Major Rosen tells me that such a conversion is practicable.

3. The foregoing would take care of the situation until the Converter 409 becomes available at which time it might be advisable to replace the 325's by the 409 type at the stations which have a small amount of business and by an automatic equivalent 409 at the Department and at the important embassies where traffic is heavy. This project would, of course, be possible only about 2 or 2½ years from now.

4. The advantages of the foregoing are that the State Department communications would be rendered very much more secure and at the important places, speeded up to a considerable extent; at the same time at the smaller stations there would be no serious maintenance and repair difficulties because of the simplicity of the apparatus and the fact that dry-cell operation is possible.

Declassified and
approved for release by
NSA on 04-08-2014
pursuant to E.O. 13526

W.F.F.
William F. Friedman
Director of Communications
Research

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