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June 18, 1942

From: The Chairman, Joint Intelligence Committee.
(Rear Admiral T. S. Wilkinson, U.S.N.)

To: The Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Subject: Limitation of Cryptanalytical Activities.

1. The informal standing Committee, composed of the Heads of the three Intelligence agencies, F.B.I., M.I.S., and O.N.I., has conducted a study of present and prospective cryptanalytical activities, in order to assure the maximum security and efficiency in the conduct of this essential work.

2. The Committee concludes, in the interest of secrecy, elimination of unnecessary duplication, and most efficient use of the limited number of talented personnel skilled in cryptanalysis, that this work should be controlled and undertaken by a minimum number of agencies. In view of the fact that the Army, the Navy, and the F.B.I. now have large organizations well equipped for and capable of handling the processing of all the raw material currently intercepted, the Committee recommends that the processing of that raw material be limited to the three agencies aforementioned.

3. It is intended by the Committee that any and all necessary cryptanal-tical work will be allocated among the three agencies named, so that the field can be satisfactorily covered.

4. In addition to the organizations named, it is understood that at present small cryptanalytical units exist in the offices of (1) Director of Censorship, (2) Federal Communications Commission, and (3) Coordinator of Information. It is possible that other Offices have installed or are contemplating cryptanalytical units.

5. In view of the range of the governmental agencies involved now, and possibly more in the future, it appears that Presidential approval of this recommended limitation will be necessary, and it is recommended that such approval be obtained.

T. S. Wilkinson.

CC: Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation.
Assistant Chief of Staff (G-2).
Vice Chief of Naval Operations.
Director of Naval Communications.

Declassified and approved for release by NSA on 07-03-2012 pursuant to E.O. 13526