2 October 1995

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJ: Analytical notes for second VENONA release

KGB: NY -> Moscow, 1941-1943
KGB: Moscow -> Canberra 12 Sept & 2 Dec 1943

1. (U) Treatment of truenames: Truenames are released in text unless the name appears in an ambiguous context or the information is incriminating. An ambiguous context is one in which the name appears surrounded by unrecovered groups. An example of incriminating context is one in which a person is described as being approachable. The names of people in public positions, to include foreign diplomats and officials, are released by virtue of their public exposure. The name is released whether it appears in the text of the message or as an equation to a coverterm in a footnote. Likewise notorious people and "illegals" have a diminished privacy right, and their names are released wherever they appear. The public interest in release also outweighs any privacy interests if a person is known to be a citizen of the Soviet Union or of Soviet-aligned (i.e., Soviet-bloc) countries such as Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia.

If a truename which is releasable is released in the text of a message, an amplification of the name in a footnote is also released. If the above conditions do not apply (e.g., public figure) to a name identified only in a footnote as an identification of a covername, the name is protected. Foreign nationals and U.S. persons are given the same privacy considerations. Once again, we have sought FBI assistance in identifying those names previously released by that agency in an espionage context. Names released by the FBI are so identified. The names being released/denied and further details on the release determinations are included in the "treatment of names" document being kept as a working document in this case. (Protection of names is done pursuant to (b)(6).)

2. (U) Treatment of addresses in text:

a. Home address associated with a truename which is being released or address not associated with a name: The address is released since there is minimal to no privacy concern to people living there today. An address itself is not "personal" information.

b. Business address associated with a truename: The address is released because a business address does not relate to a specific individual and there is no personal privacy regarding the address itself.

Approved for Release by NSA on 07-03-2014, FOIA Case # 42771

Classified By NSA/CSSM 123-2
Declassify On: Originating Agency's Determination Required

(b)(1)
(b)(3)-50 USC 3024(i)
(b)(3)-P.L. 86-36
(b)(3)-18 USC 798

3. [redacted]

4. ~~(FOUO)~~ Various versions of messages: Our intention in releasing Venona translations is to release only the final version. It has been determined that releasing various iterations of a message will show cryptanalytic techniques as more groups are recovered. Some questionable versions, however, appear in this material and I discussed them with Mr. [redacted] The two issues of concern are the following: 1) Some translations contain handwritten changes as more recoveries were made. 2) Part II of a multi-part message of 22 May 42 is barely recovered in a 1966 version. Attached to the 1966 copy of the entire message is a 1969 version of Part II which is more recovered. According to Mr. [redacted], these limited examples show that some progress was made in recovering underlying groups and that more groups could be recovered with more analysis. This information, however, does not reveal cryptanalytic techniques and the messages may be released.

(b)(3)-P.L. 86-36

5. ~~(C)~~ Other government information: Several messages related to activities [redacted] and the UK were referred to the respective governments for review. Neither [redacted] nor GCHQ object to the release of the messages.

(b)(1)
(b)(3)-P.L. 86-36

In addition, two messages reference Stockholm messages. These references were coordinated with GCHQ. In message 56, dated 20 Jan 43, there is a reference to "STOCKOLM's No. 3097." Cecil Phillips believes that 3097 was intercepted by the British. [redacted] UKLO) advised by phone on 19 September that GCHQ has no objection to the release of those references.

(b)(1)
(b)(3)-P.L. 86-36

[redacted]

6. ~~(C)~~ ~~(U)~~ We are also releasing messages dated 12 September 1943 and 2 December 1943 sent from Moscow to Canberra. These messages are circulars which were also sent to New York and other residencies. The September message provides information regarding the connection between the COMINTERN/national communist parties and the Soviet intelligence services. The December message contains general tradecraft information. Because of the signifigance of the information in these circulars we wanted to release them with other New York messages sent during this timeframe. D/DIR approved the release at this time, and [redacted]

7. [redacted]

8. (U) A message of 16 June 1943 contains a handwritten note directing that it be given to Mr. Hyde at CIA. The document was referred to CIA on 26 July 1995 with a suspense date of 31 August so that CIA could advise on the releasablity of the name of its employee. Although we have no written response from CIA, I spoke to [redacted] on 12 September, and he advised that the handwritten note may be released.

(b)(3)
OGA

CIA

Rona Lerner
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N5P5

(b)(3)-P.L. 86-36

cc: OGC [redacted]