20 September 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Analytical notes for fifth Venona release

1. (U) Messages being released

Reviewed by GCHQ

	Pages	Messages
1. GRU		
Moscow<->London 1940-42	260	160
Moscow<->London 1945-47	192	102
2. MGB Between Moscow and Sofia, Berlin, The Hague, London	80	53
3. Foreign Ministry Between Moscow and Meshed, Tokyo, Harbin, Stockholm	9	8
4. MGB Moscow<->Canberra	328	189
5. GRU Between Moscow and Sofia, Prague, Paris	12	11
6. GRU Stockholm <-> Moscow	254	141
7. GRU Naval Stockholm <-> Moscow London <-> Moscow	194	106
8. MGB Stockholm <-> Moscow	297	173
9. MGB Istanbul <-> Moscow	72	56

Reviewed by NSA/N5P5

10. GRU Between Moscow and Mexico City, Ottawa	18	11
11. Trade Between Moscow and Washington, New York, Portland, Fairbanks, Montreal, Ottawa	55	39
12. KGB Between Moscow and Montevideo, Bogata, Havana, Ottawa, Berlin, Mexico City, Washington + 2 circulars	197	151
13. Secret Writings Buenos Aires<->New York	15	6

Derived From: NSA/CSSM 123-2
Dated 3 September 1991
Declassify On: Source Marked "OADR"
Date of source: 3 Sep 91

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

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

14. Diplomatic Between Moscow and Washington, SF, NY, Stockholm, Ottawa, Ankara, Harbin, Tokyo, Havana, Bogata, Montevideo, Meshed, Kazvin, Capetown, Addis Ababa + circulars

150	152
2133	1358

2. (U) Protection of cryptographic titles:

[redacted]

3. (U) Foreign government information:

[redacted]

4. (U) Protection of names

(U) We protect the name of one indidividual identified only by government equation in a footnote. It has been determined that the privacy interest outweighs the public interest in disclosure in this case. (Exemption (b)(6) pertains.)

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

5. (U) Release of GCHQ-reviewed/redacted material :

~~(C)~~ [redacted] To facilitate the handling of the records, we provide the messages to the requesters in the form it was provided to us by GCHQ (i.e., whited out, not blacked out) and explain the discrepancy between the way the British government makes its redactions and the way we do ours. (The

only change we made to the documents was to line through the classification and obsolete codewords to indicate that the material is no longer classified.) Were we to reprocess the documents today, we would reinstate the codeword UMBRA which was declassified on 20 August 1996. We so notify the requesters, and we give them the option of advising us within 30 days if they object to receiving the documents in this format. If the requester(s) objects, we will mark the whited out sections with brackets to indicate from which portions of the pages information has been removed.

6. (U) Release of references to cribs:

(U) There are two handwritten notes on the documents which reference "cribs." One is "To GCHQ only for crib," and the other is "To CIA only for crib." I consulted with [redacted]Z regarding this information, and she has no objection to its release.

7. (U) Referral to CIA:

(U) Several translations contain handwritten notes indicating that the messages had been passed to CIA. We referred the material to CIA, and that agency has no objection to the release of the information.

9. (U) Consultation with GCHQ:

(U) There were a number of translations in the batch being reviewed by NSA which required consultation with GCHQ. We checked with GCHQ regarding the names of UK citizens and about 15 pages of diplomatic messages with a terminus in Stockholm. GCHQ offered no objection to the release of this information.

10. (U) Release of UMBRA:

(U) Because the current SIGINT codeword has been declassified, we do not remove it from the NSA-processed records. We also notify the requesters that this word was protected in earlier releases and is protected in the British-excised material.

11. (U) Status of processing:

(U) This concludes our first review of the best and final version of the VENONA translations. Further releases will include copies of messages located by GCHQ which we did not locate in our searches and copies of messages we have previously released but which contain substantive information which no longer requires protection.

Rona Lerner

Rona Lerner
N5P5

cc: OGC [redacted]

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