

~~TOP SECRET - U.S. EYES ONLY~~~~TENTATIVE FINAL~~SUBJECT NUMBER

USCIB: 3.5/6

Item 1 of the Agenda for the Fifteenth Meeting of USCIBEC, held on 28 May 1954.

Subject:

Canadian Request for Copies of NSASAB Report on "The Potentialities of COMINT for Strategic Warning".  
(USCIB 3.5/3, 3.5/4)

OGA

THE CHAIRMAN presented this item for consideration, and invited comments on the proposed release of the NSASAB report to Canada.

[ ] asked the NSA representative if he feels it desirable to inform the Canadians, as the report indicates, that there is some criticism within our own Government of personnel policies.

CAPTAIN AGNEW replied by pointing out that the NSASAB report is not an NSA report, but rather, is one prepared by the Scientific Advisory Board and submitted to the Director, NSA to do with as he chooses. He explained that NSA has made an effort to delete from the report those portions deemed vital to the defense of the U.S., and added that the ELINT Appendix had originally been deleted in its entirety because of its controversial nature and criticism of NSA; however, it was replaced at the insistence of the SAB members, who felt that the report is incomplete without it.

[ ] said that he was not thinking of the report in terms of criticism of NSA. Noting that information concerning bad relations with contracting firms has been deleted from the report, he suggested that NSA might also wish to delete the comments concerning personnel policies.

MR. GODEL pointed out that the report would be forwarded by a covering memorandum, and suggested that the Canadians be informed by such memorandum that the report does not necessarily reflect official U.S. opinion, nor do we, in fact, entirely agree with it.

COLONEL TOWNSEND, stating that he does not favor the release of controversial information of this nature to foreign governments, said that he would be willing, however, to approve release of the expurgated version subject to certain additional deletions. He indicated several examples of information which he thought might well be omitted.

CAPTAIN AGNEW said that he is aware of Dr. Robertson's opinion that if the report is cut down much more it would be better not to send it to Canada.

In reply to Mr. Polyzoides' inquiry, CAPTAIN AGNEW informed the members that the Canadians had learned of the existence of this report from Dr. Robertson himself.

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THE CHAIRMAN asked if the Committee could agree that there is a need to know on the part of the Canadians and Mr. Godel expressed his view that such a need exists in view of U.S.-Canadian cooperation in the whole problem of strategic warning.

MR. POLYZOIDES inquired whether it was originally intended to pass the report to Canada, or whether the question arose purely as a result of Dr. Robertson's mention of the report in Canada.

THE CHAIRMAN expressed his opinion that the original intent is really immaterial at this point if the opinion of the Advisory Board is shared by the NSA member.

CAPTAIN AGNEW stated that the question of sending the report was never considered until raised by the Advisory Board; but, now that it has been raised, the Director, NSA is willing that it be released.

MR. POLYZOIDES expressed his willingness to accept the recommendations of the experts in the matter.

MR. GODEL said that he finds it difficult to accept the view that further deletions will render the report useless.

COLONEL LONG asked what we will get from the Canadians in return for the report, adding his general reluctance to approve the release.

THE CHAIRMAN replied that the question of quid pro quo is not involved in this case, it being, rather, a matter of furthering U.S.-Canadian cooperation in hemispheric defense.

After further discussion the members were generally agreed that the report, properly emended, should be released to Canada. To accommodate the interests of individual members with regard to further deletions it was agreed that all recommendations for change will be forwarded to the Executive Secretary who will, in turn, notify the Director, NSA of the nature and extent of amendments recommended before the report is forwarded to Canadian authorities.

DECISION: (28 May 1954) USCIBEC agreed to recommend that USCIB interpose no objection to the release to Canada of the expurgated version of the NSASAB report ("The Potentialities of COMINT for Strategic Warning"), subject to deletions recommended by the members of USCIBEC. It was agreed, further, that individual USCIBEC members will notify the Executive Secretary of those additional deletions which it is desired that the Director, NSA accomplish prior to release of the report.

This item to be dropped from the agenda.

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