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TENTATIVE

SUBJECT NUMBER

USCIB: 12./22 Item 5 of the Agenda for the 117th Meeting of USCIB, held on 12 July 1955.

Subject: Issuance of a Class A Cryptosystem to the [redacted] Army.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dulles) explained that the Department of the Army and the Department of State members have requested that the enclosure with USCIB 12./18 be considered at this meeting. He invited the Army member to comment.

GENERAL SCHOW said that a third party type of arrangement is presently being discussed with the [redacted] Army. It seems inconsistent, he concluded, that we would try to make third party arrangements with them and at the same time refuse support in the form of providing a more secure [redacted] communications system.

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MR. GODEL suggested that consideration be given to the possible ramifications in connection with providing the [redacted] a Class A cryptosystem.

[redacted]

MR. ARMSTRONG replied that approval of the requested action would probably have no appreciable affect from the COMINT viewpoint if we could be assured that the Class A system provided would remain under the control, and exclusive use, of the [redacted] Army. Taking into account

[redacted]

GENERAL SCHOW pointed out that he did not, at this time, feel that approval of the [redacted] request would result in immediate or serious loss.

MR. GODEL commented that should the Board agree that there is no serious objection to [redacted] USCSB could be advised that possible loss is not considered to be an overwhelming consideration.

GENERAL SAMFORD remarked that it appeared, at this point, that two

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GENERAL CANINE pointed out that providing machines could and

[redacted]

the Board should proceed slowly and carefully.

GENERAL REICHELDERFER reiterated the fact that the Department of the Army, as Executive Agent for this matter, has a committee in [redacted] at the present time trying to consummate a third party arrangement. He said that approval of the [redacted] request for security help would appear to be consistent with our effort to conclude the [redacted] negotiations successfully.

MR. GODEL suggested that an attempt be made to improve their security without going as far as providing them with a Class A machine system by, for example, supplying them with additional one time pads.

The discussion concluded in agreement to recommend that USCSB exercise strong caution in consideration of assistance of this nature [redacted] although its extent is difficult to assess at this time.

DECISION: (12 July 1955) USCIB agreed that:

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a. A lack of precise knowledge of [redacted] future plans from a national standpoint suggests the exercise of caution in the consideration of assistance of this nature.

b. Approval of the request probably would not result in immediate, serious or important loss, assuming that the requested cryptosystem would remain in the hands of, and be used exclusively by, the [redacted] Army; however, considering the possibility that the system might eventually be adopted for use in the [redacted] field, USCIB is in agreement that a considerable loss in [redacted] information could result.

c. For the foregoing reason, USCIB desires to express to USCSB a strong caution [redacted] though its extent is difficult to assess at this time.

d. A means of improving [redacted] Army communications security other than by the provision of a Class A machine system, e.g., the provision of additional one time pads, probably would not result in a serious loss [redacted]

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