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USCIB: 13/349

9 July 1953

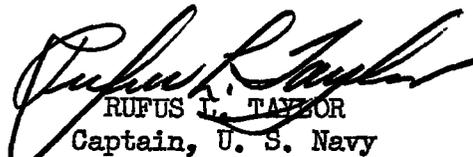
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MEMORANDUM FOR THE MEMBERS OF USCIBEC:

Subject: Secure Film Carrier.

1. The enclosure describes what action has been taken toward the development of a secure film carrier since the problem was referred to the Director, NSA, by USCIB.

2. Based upon the information contained in the enclosure, it is requested that the members be prepared to discuss this matter at the next meeting of USCIBEC with a view to recommending, for USCIB approval, appropriate action by the Director, NSA.


RUFUS L. TAYLOR
Captain, U. S. Navy
Executive Secretary, USCIB

Enclosure

NSA Serial 0092-S
dtd 2 July 1953.

USCIB: 13/349

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

Serial: 0092-S

2 July 1953

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, USCIB

SUBJECT: Secure Film Carrier

1. The problem of providing a secure carrier for use in air transportation of COMINT material over non-allied territory was discussed at the 68th, 69th, and 72nd meetings of the United States Communications Intelligence Board. At its 69th meeting the Board requested that this Agency reopen an earlier Army investigation of possible methods of incorporating a destruction means, and at the 72nd meeting the Board requested further investigation and development of a secure carrier for microfilm incorporating a destruction means outlined in the first of five recommendations previously prepared for the Board by this Agency.

2. During the course of subsequent investigations it was determined that destruction of the film record could best be accomplished by a contained combustion process rather than by the erasure method which had previously met with the Board's approval. The Deputy Director of Intelligence for Collection and Dissemination, U. S. Air Force, in reply to a request by USCIB has advised that the in-flight hazard inherent in a contained-combustion emergency destruction device is acceptable to the Air Force from the safety viewpoint on condition that the built-in protective provisions specified in this Agency's proposal for such a device are realized. Accordingly, development efforts have been concentrated on a carrier device containing a combustible emergency destructor.

3. The development work has been conducted by the Physical Security Equipment Agency (PSEA) in accordance with requirements furnished by NSA, and NSA engineers have maintained close liaison with PSEA from the outset. In addition, this Agency has offered and furnished drafting and machine-shop support as requested by PSEA. The Director, NSA, has been advised that the project has been given precedence over all other work in the chemical laboratory of PSEA, and that every effort has been made to expedite development. It is anticipated that, if no unforeseen difficulties are encountered during the development period, completion of PSEA's laboratory model should be accomplished during FY 54. Tentative NSA estimates of the cost of a number of prototype models sufficient for evaluation amount to approximately \$50,000.

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4. Notwithstanding the efforts by both Agencies to maintain development at an accelerated rate, the Director, PSEA, has advised that the earliest possible date at which he now anticipates completion of the laboratory model is 1 January 1954. This represents a delay of six months in the development schedule prepared in March 1953.

5. In view of the possible requirement for fiscal support of the program in order to provide models for evaluation, and in view of the recent reduction in funds available in FY 54 to the Director, NSA, for Research and Development, it is requested that the Board advise the Director, NSA, whether continued development of the Secure Film Carrier on a high priority is warranted. On the basis of the Board's decision, the Director, NSA, will make any necessary arrangements for funding the program and will advise the PSEA Policy Board of the priority assigned the development.

FOR THE DIRECTOR:

(Signed)
ALFRED R. MARCY
Colonel, Signal Corps
Chief of Staff

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