

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

USCIB: 13.7/45 Item 4 of the Agenda for the 30th Meeting of USCIBEC,
held on 26 May 1955.

Subject: Categorization of COMINT.

The CHAIRMAN (Captain Taylor) explained that the Department of the Air Force had submitted a request for assignment of certain material to Category I. NSA, he continued, was unable to get coordination from the intelligence consumers on this request. He concluded by inviting the NSA member to advise the Committee as to the objections or views received during the attempt to coordinate the recommendation of the Air Force member.

MR. BUFFHAM, at the request of Captain Holtwick, said that the members of the NSA committee (comprised of representatives of the intelligence consumers and NSA) who handle such requests agree that in view of the broad nature of the request it should be referred to USCIB for consideration.

MR. GODEL asked if the Air Force request goes beyond the Category I list of material described in Annexure "B1" of Appendix "B".

LT. COLONEL HARROLD replied that, in his opinion, it is a matter of judgment. One or two items on the Air Force list, he added, could possibly be construed as being a little beyond the intent of Category I material delineated in Annexure "B1".

The CHAIRMAN asked about the urgency of the matter.

LT. COLONEL HARROLD responded that it is most urgent and referred to the CONAD briefing by Colonel McCann prior to discussion of Item 2. The support plan for CONAD, he went on to point out, will not work tonight if we do not have this material actually assigned to Category I today. Almost all of the material in question, he concluded, has already been declared "Suitable" for assignment to Category I.

MR. POLYZOIDES suggested that the Committee (1) approve assignment of all of the types of information listed in the Air Force request falling within the purview of the Category I material described in Annexure "B1" of Appendix "B" and (2) request the appropriate committee to define more precisely all of the material in question so that a decision with respect to the controversial portions may be reached at the earliest moment.

CAPTAIN HOLTWICK remarked that a satisfactory mechanism is needed for the purpose of speedily transferring an item or items from the "Suitable" section to the assigned category.

LT. COLONEL HARROLD expressed his opinion that there would not be enough time to use a mechanism. Furthermore, he added, should enemy

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aircraft get through the outer defense lines into an area where there is no radar, we want to be able to use instantly any information gathered from the conversations of the enemy pilots.

MR. GODEL suggested that the Air Force be authorized to use the material under consideration, without the necessity of further approval, when an operational requirement exists.

LT. COLONEL LEFFERS explained that the great majority of Army personnel who must use the material in question during wartime know nothing of its existence. These people should, he continued, have some training in its use before an operational situation arises. It's a question, he said, of writing down the ground rules and properly preparing ourselves adequately to cope with an operational situation before it arises. He concluded by recommending that subject material be assigned to Category I with the understanding that it could also be used for operational training purposes.

The ensuing discussion of the intended use of Category I material as described in Annexure "B1", the philosophy of the present categorization scheme whereby Categories I and II are divided into "Suitable" and "Assigned" sections, a more definite listing or interpretation of the material contained in the Air Force request, and operational use versus non-operational use of Category I material culminated in agreement to:

- a. Recommend that USCIB approve the assignment to Category I for operational use of all the types of information proposed in USCIB 13.7/41 of 18 May 1955 which are considered to fall within the purview of paragraph 2, Annexure "B1", Appendix "B" of the UKUSA Agreement and to refer the entire list to the committee established by the Director, NSA for a more precise listing of the material involved.
- b. Recommend that the Army member prepare a study on this subject regarding non-operational or training use of the information in question.

DECISION: (26 May 1955) USCIBEC agreed that:

- a. Regarding the operational use, to recommend approval of assignment to Category I of all the types of information proposed in USCIB 13.7/41 of 18 May 1955 which are considered to fall within the purview of paragraph 2, Annexure "B1", Appendix "B" of the UKUSA Agreement and to refer the entire list to the committee established by the Director, NSA for a more precise listing of all of the material involved.
- b. Regarding use of the information in question for non-operational or training purposes, to recommend that the Army member prepare a study on this subject presenting views which can be considered at a future meeting of USCIBEC.

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