

USCIB: 13.7/40

20 April 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR THE MEMBERS OF USCIB:

Subject: USCIB 13.7/39 dated 4 April 1955.

No objection having been received to the subject paper by 15 April 1955, the NSA proposal contained therein is considered approved.


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

USCIB: 13.7/40

USCIB: 13.7/39

~~HANDLE VIA COMINT CHANNELS ONLY~~

APPENDED DOCUMENT CONTAINS
CODEWORD MATERIAL

4 April 1955

~~TOP SECRET~~

MEMORANDUM FOR THE MEMBERS OF USCIB:

Subject: Delineation of Categories of COMINT.

Reference: USCIB 13.7/33 of 30 August 1954.

1. In the enclosed memorandum the NSA member of USCIBEC points out certain procedural problems in the categorization of COMINT and, in paragraph 4 of his memorandum, suggests a solution for these problems.

2. As the solution suggested seems eminently reasonable and designed to cut unnecessary red tape without short-circuiting anyone's particular interests, its adoption is recommended.

3. No objection prior to the close of business Thursday, 15 April 1955, will be considered to constitute approval of the procedure set forth in paragraph 4 of the enclosure and the reference will be annotated accordingly.


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

Enclosure

NSA Serial 2155 dtd 1 Apr 1955.

APPENDED DOCUMENT CONTAINS
CODEWORD MATERIAL

USCIB: 13.7/39

~~HANDLE VIA COMINT CHANNELS ONLY~~

NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

Serial: 2155

1 APR 1955

~~TOP SECRET EIDER~~

MEMORANDUM FOR THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, USCIB

SUBJECT: Categorization of COMINT.

1. Since the full implementation of Appendix B, it has become evident that the procedures governing the recategorizing of cryptographic systems which routinely replace existing ones may require revision.

2. It is a well-known fact that many cryptographic systems are changed periodically, and this is often accomplished without changing to any significant degree the type of cryptography employed, the level or number of subscribers and the type of information which it carries. According to the procedures established by USCIB, however, the same succession of actions and clearances which surround the original categorization of the system must be repeated in every instance of system permutation, however slight it may be. This situation arises because categorization actions are tied to specific short titles of cryptographic systems, and cryptographic changes are always indicated by new short title notations. The effect of this provision is that whenever a cryptosystem which has been formally assigned to Category II (and therefore published as SECRET CODEWORD) undergoes this sort of change, it must be treated as an entirely new system and therefore automatically upgraded to Category III (TOP SECRET CODEWORD). It must remain in this most sensitive Category throughout the period that all steps in the entire categorization procedure are retraced, and because this involves the concurrence of each USCIB member department and agency, as well as GCHQ, this period is of unpredictable duration.

3. This is an undesirable arrangement for at least two reasons:

a. It negates the aim of Appendix B, which is, that a system once downgraded may not effectively be upgraded, and,

b. It would automatically deprive any COMINT user who was authorized to receive only Category II COMINT of this information during the recategorizing process. If the cryptographic change occurred prior to or during an emergency, he would be deprived of COMINT when he most needed it.

Enclosure with USCIB 13.7/39 dtd 4 Apr 1955.

~~TOP SECRET EIDER~~

Serial: 2155
1 APR 1955

4. In order to insure an uninterrupted flow of information to COMINT recipients, it is recommended that USCIB affirm that the Director, NSA, may assign a cryptosystem to the same category as is assigned to the system which it succeeds when he determines that it has not undergone any change which affects the general criteria of assignment as outlined in paragraph 9 of Appendix B.

5. A similar suggestion has been made by GCHQ. In informal discussion of this matter with representatives of all USCIB members, no objections were raised, but it was generally felt that Board approval was desirable. Accordingly, I submit this item for appropriate action.

(Signed)
J. S. HOLTWICK, Jr.
Captain, US Navy
NSA Member, USCIBEC