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~~TENTATIVE~~ FINAL

SUBJECT NUMBER

USCIB: 13.7/30 Item 4 of the Agenda for the Seventeenth Meeting of USCIBEC, held on 30 July 1954.

Subject: Delineation of Categories of COMINT (USCIB 13.7/26; 13.7/27).

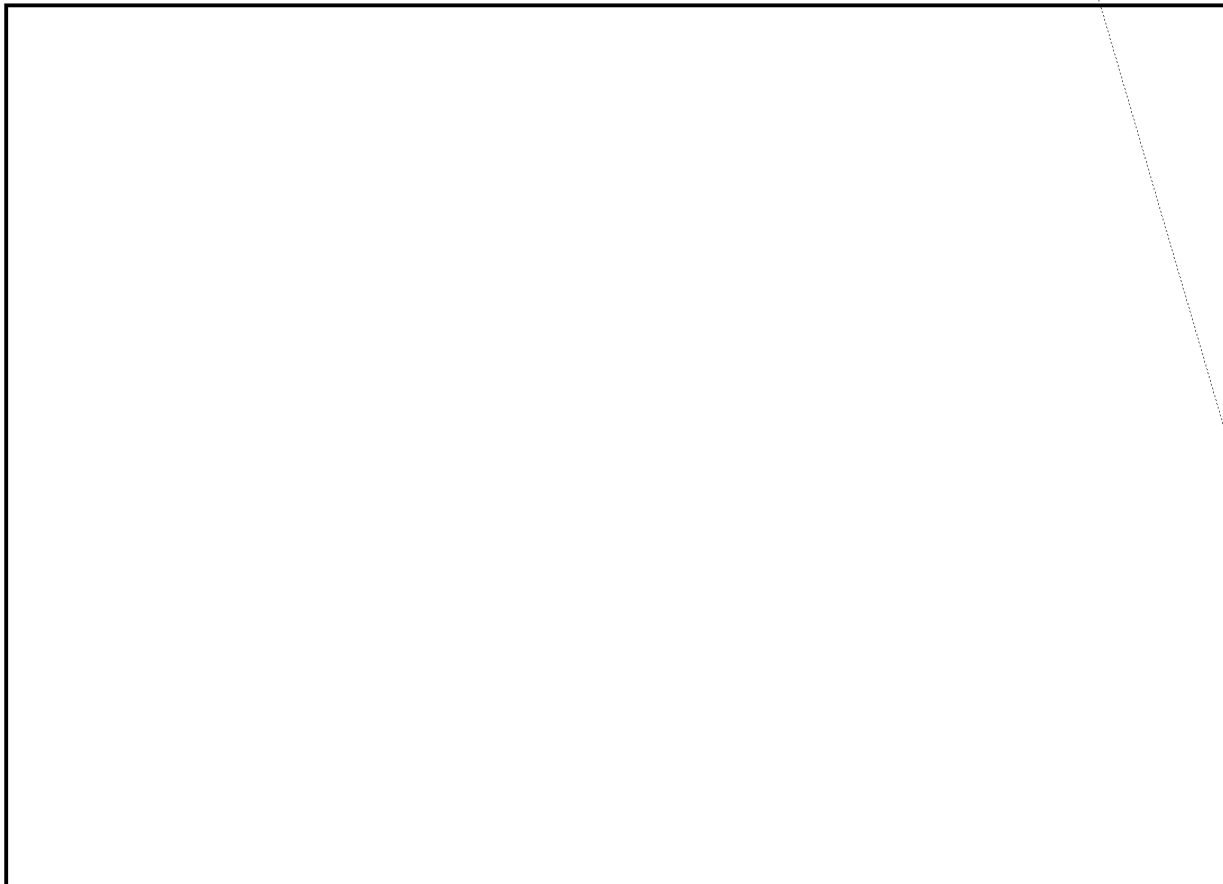
The CHAIRMAN turned to subject item for discussion.

EO 3.3(h)(2)
PL 86-36/50 USC 3605

CAPTAIN AGNEW suggested that the Committee might care to hear a message from Canada of possible interest prior to discussion.

The CHAIRMAN asked Captain Agnew if the message in question happened to be SUSLO, Ottawa's comment

CAPTAIN AGNEW replied in the affirmative then read the message as follows:



far as the Executive Secretary's office is concerned. He opined that the

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message indicates some sensitivity [redacted] and added that after reading the message he had asked the NSA people at Arlington Hall to pass informally [redacted] the categorization ideas generally agreed thus far so as to lay the groundwork for [redacted] action when the time comes. He added that adjustments of the lists between NSA and GCHQ would be a constant requirement and he could see little point in trying to maintain a separate and different list [redacted]. He said he felt that such a procedure would complicate matters and doubted that deletions to reduce [redacted]

The CHAIRMAN asked Captain Agnew to read a message from SUSLO, London.

CAPTAIN AGNEW read as follows:

"Ref WL 358, 398, LW 459 and CIB 00197. Very long reply your WL 358 received today and being pouched as USLO Serial 4012. Answers specific questions raised and clarifies UK position in respect to categorization of COMINT. Opinion here that 15 September is more probable implementation date for Appendix B."

CAPTAIN AGNEW remarked that this verified his previous feeling that the 16 August target date was unrealistic.

The CHAIRMAN noted that it had at least started the wheels in motion. He then asked the Committee to consider the INTCOM report on delineation of Categories. He recommended that note be taken of the fact that minor corrections, other than those of an editorial nature, could be made in the future lists that would follow periodically, probably month by month. He drew attention to the long delay in formulating the lists and recommended that the one under consideration be adopted as the first step in a continuing program.

[redacted] OGA drew attention to item 3c(1) on page 6 of the categorization listing. He stated that it is his understanding and asked if it is correct that the Intelligence Committee is still charged with the task of recommending a means for deciding which items have extremely high intelligence value.

The CHAIRMAN replied in the affirmative and asked the Chairman, INTCOM to comment.

LT. COLONEL SIMMONS stated that the INTCOM had discussed at great length various proposals for a mechanism to keep the lists in current status but had not reached a unanimous decision. He recommended that his Committee continue its efforts along those lines.

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OGA [redacted] stated that he would like it understood that the CIA will accept the lists presently proposed on the conditions that a satisfactory mechanism for maintaining the list current is rapidly achieved and that the CIA is free to reopen the question of placing [redacted] in Category II. He then asked if the Chairman does not feel that giving the [redacted] full categorization list would not be giving them unnecessary information.

The CHAIRMAN stated that, after examining the dissemination [redacted] he felt that while a few things in the lists would be new [redacted] he doubted that it would be worth the trouble of expurgating them.

[redacted] asked if this might not cause NSA to be confronted with new requests.

The CHAIRMAN agreed that this might occur and suggested that NSA look into that angle.

The CHAIRMAN then referred to the Air Force comments (USCIB 13.7/27) circulated just prior to the meeting and asked Lt. Colonel Harrold if he wished to comment further.

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LT. COLONEL HARROLD indicated that his previously circulated written comments might have brought out points of interest to other members and suggested discussion on that basis.

The CHAIRMAN, referring to USCIB 13.7/27, asked Lt. Colonel Harrold if he would care to indicate the specific points he had in mind and asked if, for example, such things as the inclusion of [redacted] on both the "suitable" and "assigned" Category II lists constituted the type of error in question.

LT. COLONEL HARROLD stated that he did not see much point in trying to go over all the errors he had noted. He said he thought it would be better for the INTCOM and NSA to do that job.

The CHAIRMAN said he felt that some clarification would be helpful. He asked if, for example, the distinction between [redacted] on the "assigned" list as opposed to [redacted] on the "suitable" list was the type of variation he had in mind.

LT. COLONEL HARROLD replied in the affirmative.

The CHAIRMAN asked Dr. Shinn to explain this feature.

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DR. SHINN pointed out that the [] duplication is simply an editorial error. Dr. Shinn then explained that every [] system [] starts out, by necessity, in Category III. He pointed out that as soon as a solution is achieved a basis for further determination of proper category begins to be established. The state of solution determines how much information can be adduced to justify such a decision. In the early stages it might be possible to include a system on the "suitable" list since further consideration is required before it becomes "assigned". Meanwhile it is treated as Category III. While this process is developing, unknown variations in the basic system may be appearing. The variations, because their solution is still unachieved, obviously must start out in Category III moving into Category II "suitable" as more becomes known and, finally, when enough is known a determination can be made as to whether the system can be "assigned" to Category II. The whole process, Dr. Shinn explained, is a chain of succession wherein the time element produces lags that give rise to the apparent anomalies noted by the Air Force Member. He concluded by saying that this is one of the key factors which requires a special mechanism for proper solution of the categorization problem.

The CHAIRMAN asked Dr. Shinn if there are any variations now on the proposed "suitable" list that ought to be on the "assigned" list.

DR. SHINN replied in the negative. He added however that the proposed lists are not, in his opinion, in keeping with the times.

The CHAIRMAN asked if Dr. Shinn's explanation answered the questions raised by Lt. Colonel Harrold regarding the peculiarities of the proposed Category II "assigned" and "suitable" lists.

LT. COLONEL HARROLD replied in the affirmative but added that he felt that the listings required further study to be sure that all of the systems that ought to be included are actually included.

The CHAIRMAN then asked Lt. Colonel Harrold what points he wished to raise regarding []

LT. COLONEL HARROLD stated that he wondered if [] should really be in Category I and asked that this point be discussed.

CAPTAIN AGNEW asked to have Dr. Shinn speak to that point.

DR. SHINN explained that only identification made by [] techniques and used in connection with [] fixes is involved. He pointed out that information revealing the source or techniques is not included.

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There followed a discussion as to whether the proposed delineation of Category I COMINT really adds anything to the descriptions contained in Annexure B1 to Appendix B of the UKUSA Agreement. It seemed to be the consensus that it adds little or nothing.

LT. COLONEL SIMMONS expressed the view that his Committee would welcome suggestions for improvement of the paper under discussion.

MR. O'GARA interjected a comment to the effect the Army had a redraft of the proposals to offer.

The CHAIRMAN asked why the redraft hadn't been made available to the INTCOM adding that it was his understanding that the members of the INTCOM had unanimously concurred in the proposal now before USCIBEC.

LT. COLONEL SIMMONS explained that he had obtained telephonic concurrence of the INTCOM members but that in some cases, the regular members being away, the concurrence was obtained from the alternate member.

The CHAIRMAN asked Lt. Colonel Jeffers if he felt that the proposed list should be recommitted to the INTCOM for further study.

LT. COLONEL LEFFERS replied in the affirmative.

CAPTAIN McCORMICK stated that he had understood that there was some confusion on the question of unanimity of INTCOM opinion and added that he had understood that in some respects the listings are obsolescent if not actually obsolete.

The CHAIRMAN asked Lt. Colonel Simmons to comment.

LT. COLONEL SIMMONS agreed that there had been a last minute discussion of this point but that he had understood the issue to have been cleared up by correspondence between NSA and GCHQ and that the issue really settled around the question of what should be on the "suitable" list instead of the "assigned" list and vice versa.

The CHAIRMAN indicated that in his opinion such questions could be solved by the Executive Committee. He asked Captain McCormick if he felt that the list is inadequate and, if so, in what respect.

CAPTAIN McCORMICK said he thought it might do as a trial balloon but he would prefer that it be reviewed before proposing it to LSIB.

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The CHAIRMAN intimated that editorial review would do and that if further objections were perceived they could be raised during the interregnum between USCIBEC and USCIB approval.

MR. POLYZOIDES stated that in his view the INTCOM had done as good a job as they could working against the hard deadline given them by the Executive Secretary, and which now proves to be artificial. He suggested that in view of the lack of time the INTCOM had had for thorough review and in consideration of the time elements indicated by the SUSLOs, the proposal be recommitted to the INTCOM for the purpose of solving the still existing questions.

CAPTAIN AGNEW suggested that, in view of the need for further adjustments with GCHQ, the Executive Committee dispose of the proposed listings and let the INTCOM devote its attention to devising a mechanism for keeping them current.

MR. POLYZOIDES stated that he favored having the INTCOM do a complete package incorporating the U.S. view.

The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the lack of celerity with which the Board's machinery is moving on this problem and suggested that the lists be sent to the Board and to LSIB with a view to concurrent adjustment between NSA and GCHQ so that the final approvals could be expedited.

MR. POLYZOIDES said he thought that enough issues had been raised to warrant recommitment to INTCOM and that such action need not cause excessive delay.

DR. SHINN interposed a comment to the effect that the problem has become quite complicated because of the many compromises that had to be made to achieve the new Appendix "B". He said that he felt that a mechanism for administering the lists on a current basis should be adopted before adopting such lists themselves.

MR. POLYZOIDES stated that in his view such a mechanism is quite important.

The CHAIRMAN asked Mr. Polyzoides just what sort of a mechanism he had in mind.

MR. POLYZOIDES said that he had been thinking in terms of a group to maintain continuing surveillance over the assignments of material to Categories. He said he would like to have INTCOM advice on what sort of a mechanism they think would be best for the purpose.

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The CHAIRMAN expressed the view that the problem is actually a good deal simpler than the current discussion makes it appear. He said that he had understood that the INTCOM and everyone else had agreed that the machinery of USCIB provides an adequate mechanism of administration for routine situations. He pointed out that use of the Board structure would envisage NSA and GCHQ getting together on the initial listings which could then be reviewed by the INTCOM, USCIBEC and USCIB as necessary. He pointed out that in order to get consideration for a change in the listings, including the movement of material from the "assigned" to the "suitable" list, it would be necessary only for the member desiring the change to raise the question and the Board's machinery would start moving. He said that he feels, and had understood that the INTCOM feels, that a special mechanism may be necessary only for urgent cases. He concluded by saying that it is for these reasons he had pressed the Chairman, INTCOM to submit an agreed delineation of Categories and leave the question of a mechanism to administer them to be settled later.

DR. SHINN reviewed the history of the question, substantially agreed with the preceding remarks of the Chairman and concluded by saying that it is the requirement for speed that gives rise to the view that a separate mechanism is needed for downgrading systems at a moment's notice.

The CHAIRMAN said he could see no reason for holding up progress while such a mechanism is being devised.

Discussion again centered around the question of recommitting the INTCOM report for further review in consideration of the points that have been raised.

It was the consensus that USCIB 13.7/26 be returned to INTCOM.

MR. POLYZOIDES expressed the view that a lot of time could have been saved by agreeing to recommitment earlier.

The CHAIRMAN intimated that in his view the majority of the Committee does not seem to be as concerned as they ought to be over the need for action on categorization. He then asked if the Executive Committee would care to consider recommending a change in codewords concurrently with whatever is agreed on categorization.

It was the consensus that, while the idea has merit, the time element might render such action impracticable. It was, however, agreed that the Executive Secretary should assess the time element and submit appropriate recommendations in accord therewith.

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DECISION: (30 July 1954)

1. That USCIB 13.7/26 be reconsidered by the INTCOM with the view to recommending a U.S. position on the following:

a. An editorial review of the lists contained in USCIB 13.7/26 to eliminate duplication and render them as up to date as practicable.

b. A delineation of categories recommended for current COMINT including that material considered to be suitable for assignment to categories lower than Category III and that material to be currently assigned to such lower categories.

c. A mechanism for maintaining both the "suitable" and "assigned" listings in current status.

2. That INTCOM forward its report to the Executive Secretary for action which might include appropriate recommendations regarding such change of codewords as may then be considered feasible.

The meeting adjourned at 1615.

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