

USCIB: 13.7/11

19 April 1954

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE MEMBERS OF USCIBEC:

Subject: Emergency Dissemination of COMINT to Non-indoctrinated Persons.

Reference: USCIB 5/460 dated 30 July 1953.

1. In accordance with the instructions set forth in the reference the Intelligence Committee prepared certain recommendations with regard to subject dissemination. As explained in enclosure 1 hereto, these were forwarded to the Security Committee for review and comment. Enclosure 2 herewith includes the Security Committee comment and forwards a draft directive approved by it with regard to subject.

2. The above mentioned draft directive is submitted for consideration by USCIBEC at its next regular meeting. In this connection attention is invited to the emendations recommended by the Intelligence Committee in enclosure 1 hereto. The Executive Secretary concurs in these suggestions. In addition the inadvertent inclusion of the words "Third Parties" in subparagraph C.3.a. on page 5 of the draft directive should be eliminated and the words "nationals of countries not included within the scope of this directive" substituted therefor.

3. Some members may feel that the staff work on this paper is not as complete as it should be. The Executive Secretary feels, however, that Standing Committee deliberation on this topic has gone on long enough and that the work is now sufficiently advanced to permit Executive Committee consideration and subsequent clerical titivation of the resultant papers by the Executive Secretariat.

4. The Executive Secretary is of the opinion that the provision for identification of each item of Category II COMINT as set forth in the last sentence of paragraph V.A. may be impracticable in many cases and that it would be just as useful and a lot simpler to require only a general description of the nature and extent of source material to be reported as is suggested in the case of Category II Plain Text.

5. In addition to the above the Executive Secretary disagrees with the view of the Security Committee as set forth in the first sentence of paragraph 3 of enclosure 2 hereto (The Chairman, SECCOM Cover Memorandum). It was thought that the whole idea of this exercise

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was to anticipate the emergency conditions under which prior reference to the Board would be impracticable and to provide sufficient latitude to meet such conditions without plaguing the mental processes of people dealing with an emergency by asking them to consider the feasibility of referring to Washington for the opinion of a Board they may know little or nothing about. It is considered that the Board should not let itself be drawn into the position of participating in emergency decisions by commanders in the field. Centralization of policy control should always be accompanied by decentralization of execution. In attempting to insure that such decentralized execution conforms to policy, corrective surveillance should be adequate. Any attempt to institute preventive surveillance procedures where time is an element (as it almost invariably is in emergencies involving the use of COMINT by the Armed Forces) is apt to produce a fiasco, perhaps of disastrous proportions. Accordingly, it is recommended that careful consideration be given to this draft directive with the view to eliminating any implication that referral to USCIB in emergency situations is a matter which field commanders must add to other pressing considerations.


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

Enclosures

1. INTCOM 13.7/10 dtd 13 Apr 1954
2. SEC #0001 dtd 9 Apr 1954

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