

~~TOP SECRET~~

USCIB: 13/304

23

19 January 1953

~~TOP SECRET - SECURITY INFORMATION~~MEMORANDUM FOR THE MEMBERS OF USCIB:

Subject: Compromise of Codeword and Associated Information.

1. The enclosure is forwarded for Board consideration at the request of the Director, NSA.

2. It is requested that your views with respect to the recommendations contained in paragraphs 4 and 5 be entered on the attached vote sheet, which should be returned to the Secretary by Friday, 23 January 1953.



H. D. JONES

Acting Executive Secretary, USCIB

Enclosure - 1
NSA Serial # 00028 dtd
13 Jan 53, above subj.

USCIB: 13/304

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WASHINGTON 25, D. C.EO 3.3(h)(2)
PL 86-36/50 USC 3605

Serial: 00028

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE ACTING EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, USCIB

SUBJECT: Compromise of Codeword and Associated Information



3. The Director concurs in the view that the codeword must be considered compromised. Codeword changes normally are not made unless a compromise has occurred. Not all codeword compromises result, however, in codeword changes. No criteria have been established whereby it may be decided whether a given compromise should be followed by a codeword change. The likelihood that the codeword may have been revealed to unauthorized persons need not be weighed in such a decision because this question will already have been considered in deciding whether a codeword compromise has occurred.

4. As a recommended criterion, changes of compromised codewords should be accomplished whenever specific security advantages resulting from such changes may be foreseen. Apparently, the only other secure criterion would be the automatic change of a codeword whenever it is compromised. Such automatic changes, however, would seem to be inefficient and uneconomical in those instances where specific security advantages are not foreseen.

5. With further reference to the codeword compromise reported by the Deputy Director, GCHQ, the Director does not foresee any security advantages which might result if the codeword were changed and recommends, therefore, that the codeword be retained.

6. With further reference to the COMINT successes revealed by the subject compromise, no further action seems to be required at this time.

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~~TOP SECRET~~

Serial: 00028

~~TOP SECRET - SECURITY INFORMATION~~

13 January 1953

7. It is requested that the above information and recommendations be submitted to USCIB Members for vote sheet approval. A final reply to the memorandum mentioned in paragraph 1, above, is being withheld pending such approval.

FOR THE DIRECTOR:

/s/ P. P. Leigh
P. P. LEIGH
Captain, U.S. Navy
Acting Chief of Staff

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