8 February 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR THE MEMBERS OF USCIB:

Subject: Compromise of COMINT Codeword.

Reference: CIBD #9 (Revised) dated 4 February 1954.

The enclosed report of compromise of a COMINT codeword due to ineffective communications security is circulated for information.

Enclosure


USCIB: 13.5/97

Declassified and approved for release by NSA on 02-21-2014 pursuant to E.O. 13526
MEMORANDUM FOR THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, USCIB

SUBJECT: Compromise of Codeword

1. The incident described in the inclosure has been evaluated as constituting a compromise of the codeword involved.

2. In view, however, of the extreme unlikelihood that an additional report would produce any additional pertinent information, it is recommended that the final report normally required be waived in this case.

FOR THE DIRECTOR:

(SIGNED)
D. M. AGNEW
Captain, US Navy
Deputy Chief of Staff

Incl:
OP-922YH Ltr, Serial SY/0692-54,
Subj: Codeword, possible compromise of, 30 Dec 54

Copy furnished:
CNO (OP-92)

Enclosure with USCIB 13.5/97 dtd 8 Feb 1955.
From: Director of Naval Intelligence  
To: Executive Secretary, USCIB  
Via: Director, National Security Agency  

Subj: Codeword; possible compromise of  
Ref: (a) CIIBD #9  

1. In accordance with reference (a), the following report of possible compromise is made.  

2. A message, originated by Op-922Y, located in the Pentagon, was forwarded by teletype to the Naval Security Station, 3801 Nebraska Avenue, N.W., via Op-922Y1, located at Arlington Hall. The message was classified, "Top Secret U.S. Eyes Only." The Naval Security Station was notified later by Op-922Y1 that the Top Secret codeword should have been included in the classification and the change was accordingly made. A short time later, on 22 September 1954, an enlisted operator in Op-922Y called the operator at the Naval Security Station on an insecure phone to ascertain if the correction had been made. In response to the inquiry the operator at the Naval Security Station gave the entire classification of the message, including the codeword.  

3. Both operators concerned in the above incident have been reprimanded and all personnel connected with teletype operations thoroughly reindoctrinated as to procedures to be followed in connection with such operations, particularly as to the insecurity of present telephone connections and the absolute necessity of avoiding conversations which could involve the inadvertent mention of classified information.  

(SIGNED)  
Carl F. Espe  
Rear Admiral, USN  

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS CLASSIFIED COMMUNICATIONS INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION. IT SHALL BE HANDLED ENTIRELY WITHIN CHANNELS PROVIDED EXPRESSLY FOR COMMUNICATIONS INTELLIGENCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY RULES FOR THE HANDLING AND DISSEMINATION OF COMMUNICATIONS INTELLIGENCE.