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USCIB: 13.5/87

8 November 1954

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PL 86-36/50 USC 3605MEMORANDUM FOR THE MEMBERS OF USCIB:

Subject: Physical Compromise of Codeword.

Reference: USCIB Directive No. 9.

1. A SECRET Codeword document originated by NSA, Control No. 845-50, was reported lost at Vint Hill Farms Station, Warrenton, Virginia.

2. Findings of a board of officers, appointed to investigate the reported loss, indicate that:

a. The document, Interim Report NSA-90 #84-54 dated 15 February 1954 (Control No. 845-50) classified SECRET Codeword, disappeared between the hours 0800 and 1530 on 24 March 1954 while under the responsibility of Sgt. Robert F. Snyder.

b. The supervisor, even though required to sign a certificate of accountability and responsibility, had little or no control of the documents.

3. Although the board of officers who investigated the loss did not specifically find that subject document was burned, WOJG Nicholls, who as watch officer was responsible for burning trash from 0800 to 1530 on 24 March 1954, pointed out that it was highly possible for the document to have been placed into the incinerator unnoticed.

4. The board recommended that:

a. Subject document dated 15 February 1954, classified SECRET Codeword be considered compromised.

b. Sgt. Robert F. Snyder, [redacted], be held responsible for the loss of the document.

c. The Watch Officers be made responsible for all documents used by the operating tricks on a 24-hour basis. All documents be receipted for from watch officer to watch officer and retained by or

Declassified and approved for release by NSA on 02-10-2014 pursuant to E.O. 13526

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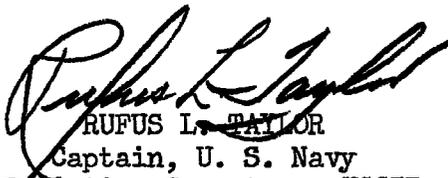
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released from the watch officer on hand receipt for the period of time required for actual use. This should prevent a recurrence of the loss of a document. In the past the supervisor, even though required to sign a certificate of responsibility and accountability, has had little or no control over the documents since they are used in more than one room in the building, by more than one person, and in many cases by personnel senior in grade to the person held responsible.

d. All reference documents be placed in fiber or metal covers to reduce the possibility of inadvertent destruction.

5. The Director, National Security Agency, has advised that he concurs with the findings and recommendations and considers the material involved compromised. He also considers the corrective action taken satisfactory.

6. The above brief of subject compromise and action taken thereon is circulated for information in lieu of the complete report of the board of investigation. Should, however, any member desire the complete report, it is on file in the office of the Executive Secretary, USCIB, and will be made available on request.


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

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