

~~TOP SECRET~~

24

USCIB: 13.5/55

~~APPENDED DOCUMENTS CONTAIN
CODEWORD MATERIAL~~

20 April 1954

~~TOP SECRET~~MEMORANDUM FOR THE MEMBERS OF USCIB:

Subject: Compromises of SIGINT Information.


1. At the request of the Director, National Security Agency, the enclosed memorandum from GCHQ on the above subject is forwarded for information.

2. Comments by the Director, NSA, on the enclosed list of recommendations adopted by LSIB to improve the handling of certain UK crypto-systems are briefly summarized below:

"a. We are also concerned over the danger of transmitting plain-text when various on-line crypto-systems, including 5 UCO, are used and are investigating ways to prevent it.

"b. We already are printing Encipher and Decipher pads, OTP, in different colors.

"c. The recommendations regarding ROCKEX and ROLLICK are expected to result in improved security. These equipments are not being used by the U.S."


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

Enclosure

Copy of DGC/4217 dtd 26 Mar 1954.

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Declassified and approved for release by NSA on 02-11-2014 pursuant to E.O. 13526

~~TOP SECRET~~

REF ID: A59621
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DGC/4217

26th March, 1954.

Director,
National Security Agency.

COMPROMISES OF SIGINT INFORMATION

As a result of the proposal, referred to in DGC/3555 of 16th July 1953, that L.S.I.B. should review the whole problem of the compromise of Sigint information by misuse of Sigint communications a number of recommendations, designed to bring about a diminution in the number of such compromises, have been adopted.

2. I am glad to be able to tell you that during the period 27th July 1953 to 23rd December 1953 only three further compromises by U.K. authorities have been reported.

3. I am taking the opportunity, while sending you, at Appendix, a copy of the details of these three lapses, to ... enclose a copy of recommendations adopted by the U.K. concerning specific U.K. cryptosystems which are additional to the Regulations approved and adopted by L.S.I.B. which will be forwarded to U.S.C.I.B. shortly.

Deputy Director.

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Enclosure to

DGG/4217.

RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY L.S.I.B. TO IMPROVE
THE HANDLING OF CERTAIN U.K. CYPHER SYSTEMS.

- 5 UCO (a) Highest priority should be given to the investigation of further improvement of the alarm system bearing in mind that the machine is normally handled by average personnel rather than by experts as in the field trials.
- (b) The arrangement of the jack field should be modified (and any other appropriate alterations made) to obviate errors arising from wrong connections resulting in the transmission of plain language tape.
- O.T.P. In future the "IN" copy of all one-time-pads used for Sigint communication should have the bottom right-hand corner dipped in red dye.
- ROCKEX Apart from strict attention being paid to training and supervision no further recommendations are made since the introduction of the mechanical modifications should effect the necessary improvement in security.
- ROLLICK A set of operating instructions with security sections suitably highlighted should be issued.

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