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FINALSUBJECT NUMBER

USCIB: 13.5/49 Item C (Not on Agenda) for the 101st Meeting of USCIB, held on 12 March 1954.

Subject: Distribution of COMINT Documents.

GENERAL CANINE informed the members that he had several comments on this subject, and proceeded to make the following statement:

"I noted the discussion at the Executive Committee's February meeting regarding the need for tightening COMINT security controls within the member agencies of USCIB. The Executive Secretary recommended certain steps be taken in an attempt to reduce the number of COMINT consumer publications in circulation and to limit their distribution; and also to restrict to the minimum the number of COMINT documents distributed by the National Security Agency and other producing agencies.

"I want to make it a matter of record that I subscribe fully to the spirit and intent of the Executive Secretary's recommendations. But I invite your attention to the fact that the decision on the matter reached by the Executive Committee represents only a partial, preliminary step towards the solution of a critical security problem. I am willing to undertake the review recommended by the Executive Committee, but it must be understood that this survey, explicitly restricted in its scope to a limited area, will not accomplish much.

"During January 1954, I published and distributed to qualified recipients over three million pages of translations and reports. To compound the problem, consumer agencies find it necessary to duplicate portions of this material and to publish these portions in their own COMINT summaries. It becomes difficult even to estimate the aggregate of COMINT documents circulating world-wide among the members of USCIB, our international colleagues, and our associates in the field. It should be abundantly clear that this staggering volume of material presents an almost insuperable problem so far as security control is concerned.

"The action of the Executive Committee seems to recognize the existence of the problem. But its action does little more than that. Because of the vital importance of COMINT security control, I would like to have the Board record its support of the Executive Secretary's recommendations, and take action now to establish an ad hoc committee composed of representatives from the Department of Defense and CIA as suggested by the Executive Secretary and do so move."

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The ensuing discussion indicated a lack of enthusiasm on the part of most members for the view expressed by General Canine, the general opinion being that control of distribution and security is a matter for internal action on the part of each individual member.

THE ACTING CHAIRMAN'S (General Erskine's) inquiry on a second to General Canine's motion received no response.

DECISION: (12 March 1954) USCIB noted the remarks of the NSA Member, but did not concur in the recommendations contained therein. It was the consensus of the Board that present security control procedures are in need of improvement and that each member department and agency of USCIB should examine its own procedures to determine ways and means of effecting such improvement.

The meeting adjourned at 1704.

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