TOP SECRET - U.S. EYES ONLY

MEMORANDUM FOR THE MEMBERS OF USCIB:

Subject:

Reference: USCIB 29.5/1 of 16 February 1954.

1. The enclosed memorandum is circulated for the information of members at the request of the Director, NSA.

2. Unless there is an objection or unless a special meeting of USCIB should be requested for the purpose of considering the enclosure, it will be placed on the agenda for recommendations at the next meeting of USCIBEC on 22 October 1954 and then forwarded, together with USCIBEC's comments, for consideration by USCIB at the next regular meeting of USCIB now scheduled for 12 November 1954.

Enclosure

NSA Serial 000438-S
dtd 1 Oct 1954
MEMORANDUM FOR THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, USCIB

1. Since the [redacted] and the publication of the reference, it has become increasingly difficult to maintain a semblance of order in the present informal arrangements with COMINT units. Not only have those units become more independent in their dealings with the US, but also the number of organizations engaged in COMINT operations appears to be increasing.

2. Listed below are the five principle groups in being which are believed to have a COMINT mission, although their efforts apparently are independent and uncoordinated:

   a. [redacted] - Headed by [redacted] now has 328 men, having been augmented recently by 100 additional trained personnel. All personnel are now recruited from the Navy.

   b. The Low Level Voice Effort - This group consists of infantry division regular communications receivers and operators, converted into their own counterpart of the ASAPAC bunker (front line, low level voice intercept) operation.

   c. The Technical Intelligence Corps - The strength, mission, location, and operation of this corps is unknown. The senior officer connected with it so far as can be learned, is one formerly attached to [redacted]. This group is understood to be working Russian and...

   d. The Headquarters Intelligence Detachment - The strength, mission, operation, and direction of this detachment are unknown. Also it is not known whether it is civilian or military.

Enclosure with USCIB 29.5/2 dtd 7 Oct 1954.
as can be determined. The having intelligence responsibilities which are in addition to its COMINT function.

The mentioned in paragraph 1 of the reference was disbanded and converted into the

However, in that the personnel which comprise those companies are COMINT trained, there is reason to believe they still are engaged in some form of COMINT activity. It appears likely that there is a connection between the and the low level voice effort described in subparagraph 2b, above.

3. In addition, the Army has prepared its concept of a cryptologic organization and has submitted the plan to US Army authorities for consideration. It may be expected that an official Air Force cryptologic organization eventually will emerge, presumably based on the group now headed by

4. The mounting confusion in the present informal arrangements and the consequent threat to the bargaining power of the US make it imperative that more satisfactory arrangements be made as soon as possible in order to insure the continued flow of produced COMINT material to the US. Because of the haphazard organization of the present COMINT effort, it is suggested that, as a first step, USCIB approve an approach by the US Ambassador to or General Hull, directly to, to request a determination of who or what organization will be the national COMINT authority. It is recommended that a USCIB Executive Agent then be selected who will attempt to negotiate a formal

5. It is requested that the above information be circulated to the Members of USCIB and that this matter be placed on the agenda for consideration at an early USCIB meeting.

FOR THE DIRECTOR:

(SIGNED)
L. H. FROST
Rear Admiral, U. S. Navy
Chief of Staff

Copies furnished:
Ch, ASA
D/I, USAF

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