

USCIB: 29.1/27

24

6 July 1954

~~TOP SECRET~~

MEMORANDUM FOR THE MEMBERS OF USCIB:

Subject: Program to Improve the Communications Security of NATO Countries.

References: (a) USCIB 29.1/1 dated 21 September 1953
(b) Enclosure 1 with USCIB 29.1/26 dated 28 June 1954

1. Attached is a memorandum from the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee for the Improvement of Allied (NATO) Communications Security recommending that USCIB (a) approve the release to the French, by the UK, of TYPEX-22 off-line cryptographic equipments for use in French "secondary" diplomatic posts, and (b) approve in principle the UK monitoring, for COMSEC purposes, of French communications at French request, subject to further USCIB consideration of such concrete proposals along these lines as are made by the British in the Combined Working Group.

2. The Senior UK Liaison Officer has expressed a desire to obtain USCIB's views for forwarding to LSIB as soon as convenient.

3. Members are requested to execute the attached vote sheet and return it to this office prior to 1700, 12 July 1954.


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

Enclosure -
a/s

USCIB: 29.1/27

2 July 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN, USCIB

Subject: Program to Improve the Communications Security of NATO Countries.

Reference: USCIB 29.1/1 of 21 September 1953
Enclosure 1 of USCIB 29.1/26 of 28 June 1954

1. The referenced report notes, among other things, that during the tripartite technical talks ending on 1 May, the UK representatives indicated willingness to attempt to help the French in solving the French cipher machine problem. It was reported at that time that the French showed little more than polite interest in the British offer.

2. On 18 June, however, [redacted] SUKLO, passed to the Chairman of the Combined Working Group (CWG) the information that M. Joseph Viala--head of the department of "Transmission of Chiffres" in the French Foreign Ministry and a French representative at the technical talks--had called on [redacted] in London on 14 June. [redacted] had been one of the UK representatives at the technical talks in Paris.

3. On 18 June [redacted] also made available to the CWG a report of the discussion between Viala and [redacted]. According to that report, Viala indicated his interest in the supplying of cipher machines for the French Foreign Ministry and mentioned that he had been informed recently by US authorities that the prospects for obtaining more ASAM 2-1's were not very promising. Viala went on to say that on-line machines were needed for the principal French diplomatic posts, but that off-line machines would be satisfactory for the secondary posts and that pencil and paper methods would suffice for the remaining posts. [redacted] then, in effect, repeated his Paris statement that the UK has an off-line machine which is a non-Simplex version of TYPEX (TYPEX Mark 22). [redacted] added that this machine was adequately secure and might be suitable to French methods; and that, although he could not at that moment commit his government, he might be able to arrange the sale of fifty to one hundred of these machines to the French Government.

4. According to the report presented to the CWG by [redacted] [redacted] and Viala also discussed the subject of monitoring, which had been emphasized in the tripartite technical talks as a requisite to the enforcement of COMSEC discipline. Viala apparently indicated

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that the French were able to do little along this line and is said to have exhibited great interest in []'s suggestion that the UK might be able to undertake the monitoring of some French transmissions if requested to do so for this purpose by the French.

5. [] then requested that a CWG meeting be called to consider these developments and certain recommendations by the British element. He stated that he had been instructed to request USCIB consent to the release of TYPEX-22 to the French and he added that formal LSIB approval had not yet been granted but can be assumed.

6. On 22 June the CWG met and discussed thoroughly the report and its implications. The group reached agreement on the following points:

a. The [] Viala conversations were an unusual but natural development from the tripartite technical talks.

b. The French have given many indications of efforts to improve their COMSEC but have not yet achieved a lasting or substantial success.

c. The release of TYPEX-22 to the French is in accord with the aims of the joint program to improve French COMSEC.

d. The US element of CWG will present the UK request to USCIB.

e. UK monitoring of French communications at French request for COMSEC purposes also is in accord with the joint program; however, no commitments should be made before USCIB has considered the matter, although [] would be permitted to communicate with Viala in order to show continuing interest and in order to obtain further information on what Viala had in mind.

7. With reference to the foregoing, the USCIB Ad Hoc Committee recommends that: (a) USCIB approve the release of TYPEX-22 to the French; and (b) USCIB approve in principle the UK monitoring of French communications at French request for COMSEC purposes subject to further USCIB consideration of such concrete proposals along these lines as are made by the British in the CWG.

(Signed)

T. Achilles Polyzoides
Chairman, Ad Hoc Committee