MEMORANDUM FOR THE MEMBERS OF USCIB:

Subject: COMINT Relations with

The enclosure is forwarded for information at the request of the Director, National Security Agency.

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

Enclosure
NSA Serial 000186-S dtd 16 Apr 1954
MEMORANDUM FOR THE MEMBERS OF USCIB

SUBJECT: COMINT Relations with  

Reference: USCIB 29.16/1, dated 18 December 1953

The inclosed British reply to my proposal for an extension of U.S. COMINT relations with (see reference) is forwarded for information in connection with the forthcoming discussion of our

RALPH J. CANNON
Lieutenant General, US Army
Director

Incl:
DGC/4228 dtd 29 Mar 1954
I apologise for not replying earlier to your memorandum 000643-S of 9th December 1953 on the subject of UK/USA, but L.S.I.B. has had to give considerable thought to the developments referred to in your memorandum and to other related developments mentioned below.

2. For the U.K. authorities there are two serious objections to the proposals made in your memorandum. First, L.S.I.B. feels that irreparable damage would be done to general contrast to the U.S. was unwilling to provide the proposals in your para 2(b) and 5. Secondly, as the fully appreciate that their requirement, the U.K. cannot, in L.S.I.B.'s view, cease its attempts to obtain that material at least in the manner proposed in your paras. 2 and 3. To do so could only lead the to the (correct) deduction that the U.S. had ignored their embargo and was making the material available to the U.K. "under the counter". This, it is thought, would not only be undesirable in itself, but it would also give the an insight into the extent of U.K./U.S. Sigint collaboration.

3. These two difficulties (which were foreseen and discussed at the March 1953 U.K./U.S.A. Conference and which we were then concerned to overcome) seem to L.S.I.B. to make the U.S. proposals unacceptable in their present form. L.S.I.B. is therefore anxious that every effort be made to find a different solution to the problem, and it is hoped that the counter-proposals put forward below will meet with U.S.C.I.B.'s approval.
6. Before any action was taken to implement this suggestion, it would be necessary for the R.A.F. to indicate that, for further consideration to be given to their proposals, they must be assured that it was made with the knowledge of Colonel [name] with whom the U.K. had already been in touch on related matters.

7. The technical assistance in voice interception to be provided by the U.K. would commence with the provision of language training of voice operators and advice on the purely signals aspects of voice interception. Thereafter, it would be progressive, up to a level corresponding to that agreed for the technical assistance to be provided by the U.S. The U.K. would be happy to arrange for the U.S. to be consulted in detail about these stages as they arose.

8. It is suggested that the U.S. be included in the agreement to the U.K., and that future agreement should be sought to the provision by the U.K. of copies to the U.S.

9. I hope that the above proposals, for which I have obtained the approval in principle of L.S.I.B., will prove acceptable to the U.S. and provide a satisfactory way out of the present impasse.