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~~TENTATIVE~~ FINAL

SUBJECT NUMBER

USCIB: 29.17/20 Item Considered at the Twenty-fifth (Special) Meeting of USCIBEC, held on 16 February 1955.

Subject: COMINT Relations with [redacted]

The CHAIRMAN (Captain Taylor) stated that the special meeting was called to consider the enclosure with USCIB 29.17/16 of 15 February 1955, which comprised the U.K. response to the recent query concerning (a) which of the equipments listed in LSIB 28/55 the U.K. believe to be intended for ELINT purposes and which are intended for COMINT purposes, and (b) which may be used for both ELINT and COMINT, how the U.K. believes [redacted] intends to use them and what COMINT the U.K. expects may be thus obtained. He invited comment from the Chairman of the U.S. Technical Committee which has considered the list of equipment requested for [redacted].

CAPTAIN HOLTWICK suggested that the U.K. response be reviewed item by item, considering at the same time the comments of the members of the Technical Committee.

It was so agreed.

Referring to paragraph A of the U.K. response, LT. COLONEL HARROLD expressed some doubt as to the requirement for ten AN/APR-9's to ensure continuous operation of six. He explained that this equipment is in critical short supply; however, through careful planning, he said, the Air Force has been able to program two AN/APR-9's with all necessary backup equipment for delivery to [redacted].

COMMANDER BRINGLE responded that the Navy has found it possible to keep fourteen to sixteen AN/APR-9's in operation with the assistance of only two spares.

In reply to the Technical Committee's comment that such equipment could in some instances be used for VHF and UHF search, LT. COLONEL HARROLD said that he does not oppose providing [redacted] with equipment for VHF or UHF search; however, he does not feel that the AN/APR-9 is the best equipment to accomplish this objective and would be more properly classified as purely ELINT equipment.

CAPTAIN HOLTWICK said that although ELINT is outside of USCIB's area of responsibility, it seems necessary at times, that the Board take notice of it. It is not, he noted, a question of whether the equipment is to be used for COMINT or ELINT purposes, but a simple recognition of the fact that USCIB cannot take a position on an ELINT transaction.

USCIB: 29.17/20

~~TOP SECRET - U.S. EYES ONLY~~

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PL 86-36/50 USC 3605

USCIB: 29.17/20

LT. COLONEL HARROLD explained the operating principle of the AN/APR-9 concluding with his opinion that other equipment would better serve the intended purpose.

Continuation of the review of the U.K. response in conjunction with the opinion of the U.S. Technical Committee resulted in agreement that USCIB should undertake to supply all items except those listed in paragraphs 3(a) and 3(c) of the enclosure with USCIB 29.17/13 of 31 January 1955. It was concluded that the items in paragraphs 3(a) and 3(c) appear to be primarily of an ELINT nature; are probably not intended to be used by [] for COMINT purposes, and are in critical short supply. With respect to offering substitute equipment for unavailable COMINT items or for those considered obsolete, the members generally agreed that a frank exposition of the U.S. position should be provided and suitable substitutes offered.

The CHAIRMAN, at this point, suggested that a drafting committee be appointed to explore further the availability of the equipment under discussion and to prepare a message to LSIB presenting the current U.S. position.

It was so agreed, with the understanding that the drafting committee would prepare, for USCIBEC approval, a message to be sent to LSIB by USCIB presenting the current U.S. position, the message to be drafted in such a form as to make it easy to separate policy statements from statements simply setting forth what equipment can and cannot be provided.

DECISION: (16 February 1955). As a result of the USCIBEC discussion, it was agreed that:

a. The AN/APR-9 equipments listed in item 3(a) of USCIB 29.17/13 of 31 January 1955, are primarily ELINT but do have limited COMINT uses. They are currently in critical short supply in the U.S. and those that are available are being monopolized as a high priority item in the ELINT effort.

b. The SKL chain amplifiers listed in item 3(b) of USCIB 29.17/13 may be used for either ELINT or COMINT, principally the latter. They are an unclassified item available commercially.

c. The Signal Generators listed in item 3(c) fall in the same category as the AN/APR-9 Receivers listed in item 3(a). They are in fact test devices for maintenance of the AN/APR-9 Receiver.

d. The Kay Sonograph (item 3(d)) is a commercial item used extensively for either ELINT or COMINT purposes.

USCIB: 29.17/20

- 4 -

~~TOP SECRET - U.S. EYES ONLY~~

USCIB: 29.17/20

e. The Clark VHF Receivers listed in item 3(e) are used extensively for both ELINT and COMINT. They can be made available, but not immediately.

f. The SCR-291 HF/DF equipments listed in item 3(f) are solely COMINT items and are now considered obsolete in the U.S. They are also unavailable. More modern equipment, such as the AN/CRD-2A, is understood to be available.

In addition, USCIBEC agreed that:

a. USCIB should not undertake to try to supply any of the items listed in paragraphs 3(a) and 3(c) of USCIB 29.17/13.

b. USCIB should be as frank as possible with LSIB on this matter.

c. Captain Taylor, Captain Holtwick and Lt. Colonel Harrold would meet at 0900, Thursday, 17 February 1955, to explore further the availability of the equipment and to draft a message for approval by USCIBEC to be sent to LSIB by USCIB as presenting the current U.S. position.

The meeting adjourned at 1130.

USCIB: 29.17/20