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FINALSUBJECT NUMBER

USCIB: 29.19/24 Item 2 of the Agenda for the 28th Meeting of USCIBEC, held on 22 April 1955.

Subject: COMINT Relations with

The CHAIRMAN (Captain Taylor), pointing out that the Director, NSA has made certain suggestions regarding the enclosure with USCIB 29.19/19, said that he would also like to hear the views of the Air Force and Army members.

LT. COLONEL HARROLD said that the Air Force has two main points. First, he said, he objected to the implication that we might have to pay for a site survey. He said his second point concerns possible complete reliance on British coverage, while the Air Force and NSA each have a stated requirement for U.S. COMINT coverage in that area. It was his opinion that the problem should be approached without consideration of either of these elements.

CAPTAIN HOLTWICK, commenting on the first point, said that he agreed with Lt. Colonel Harrold. He noted that this would be the first time a price had been considered in connection with a site survey.

MR. POLYZOIDES thought it a remote possibility that might demand payment, pointing out that the letter to Ambassador Hildreth does not hint of such an arrangement.

The CHAIRMAN asked if, in view of the discussion, Lt. Colonel Harrold wished to recommend any changes in the paper.

LT. COLONEL HARROLD answered affirmatively, but said that he would first like to make another point on the subject of payment for a site survey. He explained that we have additional interests in and said that he would prefer not to set a precedent whereby we would have to pay in each instance. As a change to the NSA paper he proposed that paragraph 3a be amended by deletion of the second sentence, and rewording of the third sentence to read: "If payment for the privilege to conduct a survey is asked, the U.S. should not offer anything."

The CHAIRMAN suggested the possibility of deleting both the second and third sentences of this paragraph, recognizing that their main purpose is to cover any eventuality in advance.

MR. POLYZOIDES pointed out that if the eventuality were to occur the matter would still have to be decided by the Board.

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EO 3.3(h)(2)
PL 86-36/50 USC 3605

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It was agreed to delete sentences two and three of paragraph 3a, until it was brought out that the paper in question contained only the views of the Director, NSA and was not, per se, subject to amendment by the Committee. The members thereupon agreed to indicate that they see no necessity for the inclusion of the two sentences mentioned.

The members then discussed paragraph 3c of the NSA paper, the first portion of which suggests the possibility of U.K. intercept facilities in [redacted] meeting a large part of the U.S. requirements there. While consideration of such a possibility was deemed necessary, the members believed it unlikely that the projected U.S. requirement for COMINT from U.S. bases in [redacted] would ever be met by U.K. [redacted] facilities. It was agreed that consideration of this possibility should not prejudice U.S. planning, and that pending the outcome of the site survey in [redacted] the establishment and operation of a U.S. COMINT installation there should be regarded as an integral part of the overall plan for providing full support to the National COMINT effort.

Reference was then made to the last sentence of paragraph 3c which provides that if U.S. sites are procurable only at the price of releasing materials and information the amount of such materials and information released should not exceed that authorized for [redacted] until it has been ascertained whether acceptable alternate sites can be obtained in other countries near [redacted].

In the discussion of this point it was suggested that such an arrangement might well permit one country to play against the other in their search for equipment, nevertheless, it was agreed to recommend acceptance of the views prepared by NSA as a proper statement subject to the understanding that question of alternate sites should not at this time be allowed to prejudice the limits of collaboration suitable with regard to [redacted].

USCIBEC was of the unanimous opinion that in recommending acceptance by USCIB of the principles embodied in the enclosure with USCIB 29.19/19 future actions in the premises would not be prejudiced.

DECISION: (22 April 1955) USCIBEC agreed to recommend that USCIB accept the enclosure with USCIB 29.19/19 with the understandings reached by USCIBEC in its discussion of the paper. These understandings, in essence, are as follows:

- a. Since the question of payment for the privilege of making a site survey has not arisen in the past, it probably won't arise in this case. If it should, the matter would have to be considered on its merits at the time. Since the Director, NSA would bring such a contingency to the attention of the Board in the normal course of events, there appears to be no need to try to provide for such a contingency at this time.

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b. Consideration of the possibility that U.S. requirements might be met by U.K. [] facilities does not prejudice in advance U.S. planning on this point. Pending the outcome of the site survey in [] the establishment and operation of a U.S. COMINT installation there should be regarded as an integral part of the overall plan for providing full support to the National COMINT effort. In this connection, the Committee considered it unlikely that any major portion of the projected U.S. requirement for COMINT from U.S. bases in [] would ever be met by U.K. [] facilities. However, the Committee recognized that the pressures of men and money render consideration of such a possibility necessary.

c. The eventuality of [] attempting to exact as price in return for U.S. COMINT bases a degree of COMINT collaboration in excess of that now authorized for [] should not at this point in time be judged as warranting an immediate search for alternate sites in other countries, but rather to warrant increased efforts to obtain from [] an acceptable bargain. USCIBEC agrees that as things now stand quid pro quo should not exceed that authorized for []

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