

USCIB: 29.20/14

~~HANDLE VIA COMINT CHANNELS ONLY~~

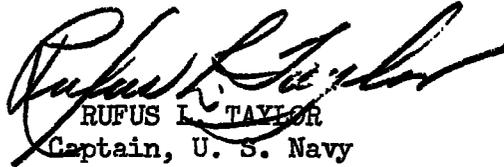
25 May 1955

~~TOP SECRET~~

MEMORANDUM FOR THE MEMBERS OF USCIB:

Subject: COMINT Units in Germany.

The enclosed memorandum containing the views of the CIA representative in Germany is forwarded for information at the request of the CIA member of USCIB.

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

Enclosure  
CIA Memo dtd 24 May 1955.

USCIB: 29.20/14

~~HANDLE VIA COMINT CHANNELS ONLY~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

24 MAY 1955

~~TOP SECRET~~

MEMORANDUM FOR THE MEMBERS OF USCIB:

SUBJECT: COMINT Units in Germany

1. The Senior Representative in Germany of the Director of Central Intelligence has been queried as to his opinion on the advisability of possible U. S. action parallel to that planned by the British, to advise the West Germans of the "size, location, and purpose" of U. S. COMINT units in Germany.

2. General Truscott's views have been received. In brief, he recommends that no action of this nature be taken at this time for the reason that:

- a. COMINT units do not differ from infantry units, signal units, etc., so far as the Germans are concerned, and it would be a mistake to set a precedent for negotiating separately each type of military activity.
- b. The Status of Forces Agreement covers all troops, including COMINT, and special German permission is not required to maintain the COMINT troops in Germany. Accordingly, to inform the Germans of these particular units might reopen a question which is already settled.

3. General Truscott also comments on the difference in size and character of the British and U. S. COMINT forces: the British having approximately 600 COMINT troops in mobile units, adaptable to being incorporated in NATO, whereas the U. S. forces number 10,000 in fixed stations, which must remain outside NATO control; and merely informing the Germans of the existence of U. S. COMINT units would not solve the problem of keeping COMINT units outside NATO control.

4. General Truscott recommends that LSIB be asked to refrain from any action with the Germans which might prejudice the U. S. position until the problem has been fully studied.

(Signed)

for

HUNTINGTON D. SHELDON  
CIA Member, USCIB

OGA

Enclosure with USCIB 29.20/14 dtd 25 May 1955.

~~TOP SECRET~~