

USCIB: 29.20/10

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17 May 1955

TOP SECRET


MEMORANDUM FOR THE MEMBERS OF USCIB:

Subject: US-UK COMINT Activities in Germany.

- References:
- (a) USCIB 29.20/6 of 4 May 1955.
 - (b) USCIB 29.20/7 of 13 May 1955.
 - (c) USCIB 29.20/9 of 16 May 1955.

1. In anticipation of the possibility that USCIB may wish to send LSIB a message based on consideration of the references the enclosure has been drafted to facilitate that process and is presented for consideration together with the references at the forthcoming meeting of USCIB on 20 May.

2. The enclosed draft is based on the background presented in reference (a), the problem raised by reference (c) and the assumption that recommendations along the lines of those presented in reference (c) may be adopted.


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

Enclosure
a/s

USCIB: 29.20/10

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MEMORANDUM FOR SUKLO, WASHINGTON:

Subject: Future Status of U.K. SIGINT Units in Germany.

I would be grateful if you would pass the following message from USCIB to your Board in response to the message contained in your MOP 4589 of 10 May 1955:

"1. USCIB HAS NOTED THE DECISION OF LSIB:

- A) TO PLACE ALL U.K. SIGINT UNITS IN WEST GERMANY IN THE ORDER OF BATTLE OF U.K. FORCES CONTRIBUTED TO SACEUR'S COMMAND:
- B) TO INFORM THE WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR, IN GENERAL TERMS, OF THE SIZE LOCATION AND PURPOSE OF THESE UNITS:
- C) TO INFORM A.C. OF S. (I) SHAPE OF THE ACTION BEING TAKEN AT A) ABOVE.

"2. USCIB PERCEIVES IN THE ABOVE DECISION A POSSIBILITY OF SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES WITH REGARD TO THE POSITION OF U.S. COMINT UNITS IN GERMANY MANY OF WHICH ARE UNSUITABLE FOR THE SACEUR 'Y' EFFORT AND THEREFORE NOT INTENDED TO BE PLACED IN THE ORDER OF BATTLE OF U.S. FORCES CONTRIBUTED TO SACEUR'S COMMAND. USCIB FEELS IN ADDITION THAT UNILATERAL ACTION ON THIS MATTER BY EITHER THE U.S. OR U.K. SHOULD BE AVOIDED.

"3. AS REGARDS THE JURIDICAL POSITION, USCIB DOES NOT CONCUR IN THE INTERPRETATION THAT THESE UNITS MUST EITHER BE PLACED UNDER SACEUR'S FORMAL COMMAND OR BE SPECIFICALLY EXEMPTED FROM THAT COMMAND BY THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL. ON THE CONTRARY USCIB IS OF THE OPINION THAT COMINT BASES IN NATO COUNTRIES IN SACEUR'S AREA NEED ONLY BE REPORTED TO THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL AS RETAINED UNDER NATIONAL COMMAND TOGETHER WITH A BROAD STATEMENT OF THE REASONS THEREFOR. THUS USCIB SEES NO REASON WHY NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE WEST GERMAN STATE FOR PERMANENT BASE RIGHTS CANNOT BE ENTERED INTO. IN THIS CONNECTION USCIB NOTES THAT THIS SITUATION WAS ANTICIPATED IN PARAGRAPH 12 OF ANNEXURE P1 TO APPENDIX P WHEREIN IT IS PROVIDED THAT:

'EACH NATION WITH FORCES SERVING UNDER SACEUR MAY INDIVIDUALLY ARRANGE WITH THE AUTHORITIES CONCERNED TO OPERATE IN THE THEATRE NATIONAL COMINT UNITS NOT PROVIDED SPECIFICALLY OR EXCLUSIVELY FOR DIRECT SUPPORT OF THE FORCES UNDER SACEUR. THESE UNITS WILL NOT OPERATE AS PART OF THE SACEUR Y STRUCTURE AND WILL NOT BE SUBJECT TO THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR INTER-ALLIED CO-OPERATION.'

Enclosure with USCIB 29.20/10 dtd 17 May 1955.

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Subject: Future Status of U.K. SIGINT Units in Germany.

"4. IN VIEW OF LSIB'S DECISION IN THIS MATTER USCIB IS NOW REVIEWING THE STATUS OF COMINT UNITS IN WEST GERMANY FROM A POLITICAL POINT OF VIEW. IN ORDER TO ACCELERATE THIS PROCESS AND TO EVOLVE ITS POSITION IN CO-ORDINATION WITH LSIB, USCIB WOULD LIKE TO SEND A TEAM COMPOSED OF NSA AND STATE DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES TO LONDON TO DISCUSS THESE PROBLEMS WITH APPROPRIATE U.K. AUTHORITIES."

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