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THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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*Private*  
*Unofficial copy*SM-194-53  
28 January 1953MEMORANDUM FOR: General Bradley  
General Vandenberg  
General Collins  
Admiral FechtelerSubject: Authority Over Military Communication  
Security (COMSEC) Matters

Reference: SM-89-53

Enclosures: A. Memo by the Director, C-E to  
Chairman, JCS, DCEM 572, dtd  
22 January 1953  
B. Memo by the Deputy Sec/Def for  
Director, C-E, dtd 9 January 1953  
C. Memo by the Director, C-E for Sec/Def  
(DCEM 571) dtd 22 January 1953Enclosures "A", "B" and "C" are forwarded for information  
in connection with SM-89-53.

(signed)

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ENCLOSURE "A"

THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
Washington 25, D. C.

Director, Communications-  
Electronics

DCEM 572  
22 January 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

- Subject: Authority Over Military Communication Security (COMSEC) Matters
- Reference: Director, Communications-Electronics Memorandum, DCEM 564, of 12 January 1953
- Enclosures: (A) Copy of Confidential Memorandum, dated 9 January 1953, from Deputy for Psychological Policy to Assistant Secretary of Defense.  
(B) DCEM 571 to Secretary of Defense, dated 22 January 1953, subject: Communication Security Matters.

1. Since I forwarded the referenced memorandum to you, I have received the memorandum in Enclosure (A). It is a closely related subject and I am therefore forwarding it to you for information.

2. By Enclosure (B), I have nominated an assistant to participate in the preparation of the directive as requested. In my capacity as Director, Communication-Electronics, my actions in advising the Secretary of Defense are normally limited to those tele-communications matters of a joint nature, but which would normally not be appropriate for consideration by the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Communication Security matters are the direct responsibility of the Military Departments and the implementation of Communication Security within a Department is directly dependent on the methods of operations of that Department. The missions of the Departments dictate differences in methods of operation, which differences make it impracticable for any one representative to evaluate properly the Communication Security requirements of all Departments. I consider it essential, therefore, that the individual Departments furnish representatives to assist in the preparation of the directives which establish policies and procedures with respect to Communication Security.

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3. In the referenced memorandum, I stressed the desirability of vesting authority over Communication Intelligence (COMINT) matters in the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Changes in control of Communication Security matters are now under consideration. The arguments favoring Joint Chiefs of Staff control of Communication Security are even more cogent than those advanced in the reference for Communication Intelligence (COMINT). Communication Security is an integral part of military communications and separation of control of one from the other would create serious disadvantages in the conduct of military operations. It is also a part of over-all military security and thus a function of command. These factors are well illustrated in the present-day need for ultra-rapid, secure communications and communications-electronics systems requiring cryptographic and associated non-cryptographic electronic devices incorporated directly into transmission circuits. Moreover, Communication Security is offensive in respect to Cover and Deception Plans and defensive in respect to protection of our plans and operations from enemy intelligence.

4. Considering the serious implications of these matters and their impact on all military operations, I strongly recommend that the Joint Chiefs of Staff take appropriate action to insure that authority over Communication Security matters affecting the Military Departments should continue to be exercised by the Joint Chiefs of Staff. As a preliminary step to such action, I recommend that each Department participate in the preparation of the directives which establish policies and procedures concerning Communication Security matters.

5. In a special meeting held 22 January 1953, the Joint Communications-Electronics Committee unanimously concurred in the above recommendations.

JOHN R. REDMAN  
Rear Admiral, USN  
Director, Communications-  
Electronics

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ENCLOSURE "B"

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
Washington 25, D. C.

January 9, 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY  
THE DIRECTOR, COMMUNICATIONS-ELECTRONICS

SUBJECT: Communications Security (COMSEC) Matters

In an Executive Directive of 24 October 1952 the Secretaries of State and Defense were designated as a Special Committee of the National Security Council for COMSEC matters. Among other things, the Special Committee was directed to prepare and issue directives which would establish certain policies and procedures with respect to COMSEC. The Executive Secretary of the NSC has requested the Secretary of Defense to designate staff representatives to assist in the preparation of such directives.

It is requested that you furnish me with the name of one official to be designated by the Secretary of Defense in the capacity of staff representative in this task.

/s/ John Magruder  
Brig. Gen., USA (Ret)  
Deputy for Psychological Policy

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Enclosure "A"

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ENCLOSURE "C"

Director, Communications-  
Electronics

DCEM 571  
22 January 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Subject: Communication Security (COMSEC) Matters

Reference: OSD Memorandum to Director, Communications-  
Electronics, dated 9 January 1953, subject  
as above, signed by Deputy for Psychological  
Policy to Assistant Secretary of Defense

1. Referenced memorandum requested the name of one official to be designated by you to assist in preparing directives establishing national policies and procedures with respect to Communication Security matters.
2. I have designated Lieutenant Colonel George P. Sampson, U.S. Army.
3. In conjunction with the above, I feel that Communication Security matters are the direct responsibility of the Military Departments. The implementation of Communication Security within a Department is directly dependent on the methods of operations of that Department. The missions of the Departments dictate differences in methods of operation, which differences make it impracticable for any one representative to evaluate properly the Communication Security requirements of all Departments. I consider it highly desirable, therefore, that the individual Departments furnish representatives to assist in the preparation of the directives which establish policies and procedures with respect to Communication Security.
4. I have submitted such a recommendation to the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

/s/

JOHN R. REDMAN  
Rear Admiral, USN  
Director, Communications-  
Electronics

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Enclosure "C"

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