

File

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: COCOM

1. On 10 November it came to the attention of DD/COMSEC that the international control committee on material shipments to the Eastern Countries (COCOM), meeting in Paris, had raised the question of including commercially produced cryptographic equipment on their lists as an embargoed item.

2. Investigation revealed the following:

a. A previous list had included the item.

b. Each country was submitting revised lists. The US suggested revision omitted the cryptographic item (although the Department of Commerce member felt it should be included); the Canadian list contained the item; the UK delegation wasn't sure, but felt that some mention of it should be made in such a way that only civil, non-military item would be affected.

c. The UK opinion was based on the fact that the embargo list gave various officials, customs, consular, Foreign office, police, etc., the right to inspect and they doubted the wisdom of allowing this on military cryptographic items, even though commercially produced.

d. The US member at the current meeting had asked for guidance and through Lt Col Leibert, of the International Security section, SECDEF, NSA's opinion was sought. Contact with Lt Col Leibert was arranged thru Mr. Philip Patton.

e. COCOM does not include Switzerland or Sweden. It does include Japan, West Germany and West Berlin, in addition to the NATO countries.

3. Lt Col Leibert agreed to inform the US delegation that they should abstain from action on this point until further instructions were received, and to consult with Mr. Friedman further, in order that a US position might be established. It appeared that action by both USCSB and USCIB might be required.

DIST: S/Asst (Mr. Friedman) ←

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