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## BRIEFING SHEET FOR THE CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF MEETING, 1400, TUESDAY

25 AUGUST 1953

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER 3

J.C.S. 2074/28

SUBJECT: U.K./U.S. COMMUNICATION SECURITY CONFERENCE, 1953

BACKGROUND:

1. In consonance with an agreement reached between the British Chiefs of Staff and the United States Joint Chiefs of Staff (J.C.S. 2074/7), a series of Communication Security Conferences to discuss cryptographic items of common interest to the two countries was begun in 1950. The third annual conference was held in Washington in May 1952. The next conference is scheduled to be held in London in October 1953.

CURRENT REPORT:

2. The 1953 UK/US Communication Security Conference will commence on 26 October and will continue until 16 November 1953. There will be a two-week period preceding the conference proper, 12 October to 23 October 1953, when representatives of the National Security Agency (NSA) and the London Cypher Policy Board will informally participate in technical discussions, examination of communications security equipments, and visits to cryptographic establishments.


3. The conference proper will be divided into two phases and, although a detailed Agenda has not yet been received from the London Cypher Policy Board, it is anticipated that the discussion in Phase I will encompass the exchange of information on each cryptosystem considered, determination of the degree of security it affords, methods of improving security, and agreement on the level, or echelon, of use for which a cryptosystem is acceptable. Security standards are to be discussed with a view to establishing a common set of standards for judging the security of cryptosystems.

4. Phase II of the conference is to be directed toward discussion and agreement on crypto-equipments or cryptosystems to meet stated Combined (UK/US) and NATO cryptographic requirements.

5. The Director, NSA, has designated Mr. William F. Friedman, NSA, as Head of the U.S. Delegation. NSA Engineering and Security experts, who will accompany him, will participate in the technical discussion during the two weeks preceding the opening of the conference proper. Some of these experts will remain for Phase I or II or both. The Director, NSA, recommends in J.C.S. 2074/28 that the Joint Chiefs of Staff concur in the designation of Mr. Friedman as Head of the U.S. Delegation, and designate a representative of each Service to participate in Phase II of the Conference.

RECOMMENDATION:

6. It is recommended that J.C.S. 2074/28 be approved.

  
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Lieutenant General, US Army  
Director, National Security Agency

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