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TENTATIVE

U.S.-U.K. CONFERENCE ON FRENCH COMMUNICATIONS SECURITYMINUTES OFTHE SECOND MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Second Meeting of the U.S.-U.K. Conference on French Communications Security was held at 0900 on 2 May 1951, in Room 19-125, U.S. Naval Security Station, Washington, D. C.

United KingdomUnited StatesThe Executive Committee

  
Brigadier J. H. Tiltman

PL 86-36/50 USC 3605

Rear Admiral Earl E. Stone, USN,  
Chairman

Lt. Col. F. W. Collins

Mr. Winston Scott

Mr. W. F. Friedman

Mr. R. F. Packard

Also Present

Captain J. N. Wenger, USN

Secretariat

Lt. J. W. Pearson, USN

In accordance with the decision made at the First Executive Committee Meeting, the Committee continued its exchange of views by considering several principles which had been drawn up by the U.S. delegation with a view toward arriving at terms of reference for the guidance of the Security Committee.

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After a period of exploratory discussions the following principles were agreed to as terms of reference for the Security Committee:

EO 3.3(h)(2)  
PL 86-36/50 USC 3605

1. [redacted] not to be revealed although collaboration in the discussion and presentation of French insecurity could be revealed.

2. There should be prepared a mutually agreed upon plan, setting forth proposals arranged in order of desirability, holding until last the [redacted]

EO 3.3(h)(2)  
PL 86-36/50 USC 3605

3. The possibility that the French may approach the U.S. and U.K. with a proposal for collaboration in the [redacted] is a risk that must be envisaged and the U.S.-U.K. must be prepared to face it. No discussions of [redacted] with the French can be undertaken on the basis of their problem alone.

4. Instead of being limited to an approach at the highest level the approach should be made at the level which will assure the greatest security.

EO 3.3(h)(2)  
PL 86-36/50 USC 3605

5. In event that the approach is to be made unilaterally by the U.S. or the U.K. the governing factor in making the choice should be the prospect of success.

It was further agreed that the following points would require additional consideration:

EO 3.3(h)(2)  
PL 86-36/50 USC 3605

[redacted]

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2. U.S. or U.K., not jointly, will make approach to the French.

PL 86-36/50 USC 3605

With reference to the above two points, [ ] stated that before he could make a decision in the premises he would have to request guidance from his Director.

MR. PACKARD suggested that the Security Committee be requested to consider the following points in addition to the agreed principles:

1. Assess the security (reliability and discretion) of those elements of the French Government with whom we would do business in our initial contacts regarding communications security.

2. Assess the difference to the Russians in the availability of vital information from readable French traffic (COMINT) or from other sources (penetration), i.e.: To what degree would the Russians be denied or delayed in obtaining vital information, if French communications were secured? Principal factors are (a) speed and (b) totality of information.

The Committee agreed.

The Committee next considered a paper prepared by the U.S. Delegation entitled: "COMPARISON OF THE U.K. PROPOSALS, AS OUTLINED IN REFERENCE (a) (DGC/1640) AND REFERENCE (b) (DGC/1643), AND THE U.S. PROPOSALS, AS OUTLINED IN REFERENCE (c) (STAFF STUDY ON THE IMPROVEMENT OF FRENCH COMMUNICATIONS)."

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MR. FRIEDMAN presented a brief outline of the paper and requested that the record indicate that the British views contained in references (a) and (b) had been formulated prior to their receipt of reference (c), and that, therefore, the comparison shown in paragraph 1 did not obtain. The same discrepancy was noted in paragraph 4a.

The Executive Committee agreed that the Security Committee would convene immediately after the Executive Committee Meeting for the purpose of drawing up a paper in accordance with the terms of reference agreed to. The Committee further agreed that the Security Committee report, if complete, would be considered immediately following the Special Meeting of the Executive Committee to be held at 1430 on 3 May 1951.

The Meeting adjourned at 0950.

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