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10 October 1952

EO 3.3(h)(2)  
PL 86-36/50 USC 3605**MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD****SUBJECT: U.S. Policy on COMINT versus COMSEC****REFERENCE: Memorandum for the Chairman, USCIB, from USCIB  
Coordinator, dated 27 August 1952, subject  
"Statement of U.S. Policy," with Two Inclosures**

1. Reference memorandum was handcarried to the Chairman of USCIB by the Coordinator, who in turn referred it to the undersigned.
2. In a subsequent discussion respecting this subject, General Smith, as Chairman of USCIB, expressed the following views:
  - a. It would not be necessary to obtain a policy decision from the NSC relating to the release of CCM's to [redacted] (USCIB 2/20), since, regardless of the applicability of the NSC decision in the case of [redacted] communication security, there was no dissent in the Board to such release at its meeting of 18 July 1952.
  - b. Although it is recognized that it would be desirable to have a well-considered policy on the question of COMINT versus COMSEC, it is felt that such a policy should be developed on an ad hoc basis, considering each case on its merits. In order to do this, it will not be necessary to secure a general policy decision from the NSC; instead, the following procedure appears to be adequate:
    - (1) In each case arising before USCIB involving a question of COMINT versus COMSEC, the Board should be requested to consider this issue and, for that purpose, all necessary preliminary studies and recommendations should be made. In the event that USCIB unanimously agrees that COMINT or COMSEC is paramount in the particular case, there will be no necessity for a policy decision by NSC.

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- (2) Where there is any disagreement in USCIB as to whether COMINT or COMSEC should be paramount in a particular case, it will be appropriate to request the NSC to resolve this issue.

3. Subsequently, following the USCIB meeting on 12 September 1952, I conveyed General Smith's views to General Canine and it was agreed that the procedure suggested by General Smith would be followed. Accordingly, there is no need for an NSC policy decision on USCIB 2/20, but, in each future situation involving an issue between COMINT and COMSEC, such issue will be determined in the first instance by USCIB and, lacking unanimity in USCIB, by the NSC.

LOFTUS E. BECKER  
Deputy Director/Intelligence

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