TO: S/ASST (Mr. Friedman)  

FROM: NSA-41  

SUBJECT: Memo for the Record  

1. Inclosed is a copy of a memo for the record concerning a recent conversation I had with M. Dussot, French consul-general in Washington and communications head at the Embassy. (He is one of the Frenchmen to whom I demonstrated the ASAM 2-1 a few weeks ago.)  

2. I believe, don’t you, that this memo should be sent at least to Capt. Taylor and Mr. Polyzoides, maybe even to CWG? What do you say?  

FRANK C. AUSTIN  
Chief, NSA-41
SECRET

17 May 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Discussion with M. Dussot, and Letter from M. Viola on ASAM 2-1

1. On Thursday, 13 May, I called at the French Embassy to see
M. Dussot, French consular-general, and head of the communications section
of the French Embassy. M. Dussot is one of the French to whom I
demonstrated the ASAM 2-1 some few weeks ago.

2. He handed me a letter, a rough translation of which appears
below.

"Dear Mr. Austin

Following the conversations which we had last week, when, among
other things, we spoke of the ASAM 2-1, five copies of which were
delivered to our Embassy in Washington, - I now confirm that the gift
interests us and that we have the intention, when we have enough
machines of this type, to set up a network which will use this material
exclusively.

The purpose of my letter is to inquire of you, since you asked
me to write to you (on ASAM 2-1 questions) as to when and in what
quantity it would be possible to furnish more machines. The purpose
of this is to permit us to take the planning steps necessary for the
organization of our services.

.......... (signed) Viola"

3. M. Dussot then took pains to make it clear to me, as he had so
been instructed by M. Viola, that the French were not trying to put
pressure on us but that M. Viola had been told to write this letter by
his superior, Dussot, the secretary-general for administration of the
French foreign office. As Dussot explained it to me the foreign office
has two permanent secretaries, one, Parodi, for political questions and
the other Dussot, for administration.

4. I told Dussot that I would try to have some sort of an answer
for him as soon as possible, that perhaps a few more machines might be
dug up, but that I thought it would be a long time before any substantial
quantity would be available.

5. An important background to this request, it should be recalled
that Captain Taylor, CESIB Executive Secretary, as evidenced by his word
for word on the ASAM 2-1 demonstrations, informed the French that after
us, the US, had placed our new machine into effect, a sizable quantity
of ASAM 2-1's might be made available to them. This information had been relayed to Viala. We discussed it briefly in Paris and I said it seemed to me a likely possibility. We did not discuss time.

6. It appears to me that three points need to be investigated before Viala's letter can be answered.

a. Can we locate a few more machines now which we can give the French?

b. Can we tell the French, with any reasonable accuracy, when some large quantity of ASAM 2-1's might be made available (after our introduction of ASAM 9's)? Presumably the total desired is still that originally requested.

c. Do we want to let them use ASAM 2-1's on this large and semi-permanent basis, or do we want to supply them with ASAM 9's? (This was hinted as a long-range answer in the original reply to deSijoli.)

7. Answers to the above are now being sought.

8. H. Scott informed me that he had retained two ASAM 2-1's in Washington and had ordered the necessary teleprinter equipment to go with them. He said the French were still expecting to send a maintenance man to Washington, and would ask our assistance in training him.

FRANK C. AUSTIN
Chief, Analysis and Evaluation Division

cc: B/302/25/32
V/DIR
P/P
MA-42
MS-402
S/JASSY (Mr. Friedman)