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9 April 1954

Packard from Elliott.

Owen and Elliott met last night with Auboyneau and Guillerme and made very satisfactory progress toward completion of TSWG phase.

(1) The names of the U.S. and U.K. technical representatives were given to the French. Owen gave in addition the dates of birth and the years of experience in communications security of the U.K. delegates. Elliott promised similar information on U.S. representatives tomorrow.

(2) Auboyneau said that one of their two representatives would be the Chief of Government Transmissions, Commander de Corvette Jean Rault who is also a member of the Permanent Secretariat of National Defense. Rault was born on April 27, 1910 and since 1939 has been a specialist in cryptography. He has held his present post since last December and prior thereto was a transmission specialist in the Navy. He is said to be thoroughly familiar with all procedures affecting communications security in the French Government except the Foreign Office. His office handles the French Government transmission and reception of all communications on military matters, including NATO and handles some of the Foreign Office transmissions by radio.

(3) In the conversation with the French and with Rault who was asked to the meeting by Auboyneau it was brought out that the French Inter-Ministerial Commission on Ciphers was not an authoritative body but was essentially a coordinating group dealing with communication security matters. Rault said they discussed methods not ciphers.

(4) Paris is agreeable to the French as a meeting place. Auboyneau urged that the meetings be held in Washington just prior to another TSWG meeting but Owen and Elliott indicated that further relationship of this project to TSWG appeared unwise.

(5) Meetings will be held in selected Ministry of Defense quarters at 51 Boulevard Latour-Maubourg (Les Invalides). SSFA will take special security precautions in an otherwise well guarded building.

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(6) Time for commencement of meetings not yet firm although French seemed agreeable to a date shortly after Easter. Unless otherwise advised Elliott will propose either April 21 or 26.

(7) Second member of French team will be named within 24 hours and will be forwarded promptly Washington. He will probably be from Foreign Office. It is likely he will have background of Rault's organization or branch of military service.

(8) French will endeavor to obtain COSMIC cleared interpreter as Rault obviously has no real knowledge of English. Owen also querying U.K. What are possibilities bringing interpreter from Washington or overseas U.S. sources?

(9) Further meetings TSWG conferees will be held on call or at 5 PM, April 12 when it is hoped that final agreement on technical meetings can be reached. In meantime each side will communicate further details as indicated above.

Meeting was in cordial atmosphere. At outset Auboyneau said it seemed somewhat irregular to him for a group outside NATO to be discussing NATO communications matters. Owen and I said that we did not think there should be any unwarranted transgression on NATO matters but that discussions would be focused on communications security principles and "bad practices" which in many instances might be common to any communications system.

Urge immediate screening Rault against readily available U.S. intelligence and security sources and report to Elliott in Paris by Monday, April 12.

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