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19 VII 1950

Memo:

From: AFSA 144

To: AFSA 14

SUBJECT: Relations with German Military Documents Section

1. With the shipment to this country of tons of captured documents following the cessation of military operations, several units were organized to process these documents. One of these was G.M.D.S. Subsequently other captured documents - with minor reservations - were turned over to the AGO as of 1 July 1948 (?) and assigned to GMDS.
2. As might be expected, some documents of cryptologic character were picked up by units other than the TICOM Teams and many of these items found their way ultimately to G.M.D.S.
3. Inasmuch as no one, so far as ever reported, was ever cleared at G.M.D.S. for cryptographic matters, there seems to have been no systematic watch for cryptologic material and no attempt to report such, if noted, to ASA or other appropriate agency. Hence such items lay in GMDS unless and until found by a member of some interested agency.
4. AFSA today is responsible for all TICOM material and activity in this country; it should therefore receive all documents of a definitely cryptologic nature for processing - and probably for retention, since other agencies are not known to be authorized to handle such material. Under the new Public Law 513 of 1950, provisions of which seem clearly to apply to certain documents held by GMDS, it appears desirable that GMDS be apprised of this fact so that proper provision may be made there for safeguarding the material in compliance with the letter and the spirit

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- of said law, or else the material be turned over to AFSA-14 TICOM which is specifically charged with caring for such material.
5. Numerous other items held by GMDS are of value to AFSA as collateral. Some such items have been borrowed and translated, others should be. The originals can then be returned as in the past.
  6. Hitherto the borrowing by ASA, and AFSA, has been through Special Distribution. This was to serve as a cover for ASA activities but inasmuch as a considerable group of documents dealing with Russian codes and ciphers was obtained "on permanent loan" over the signature of Col. (now Gen.) Clarke, the identity of the present holder is very thinly veiled.
  7. It is believed that existing relations might be improved, to the benefit of both parties, therefore it is suggested:
    - A. That Mr. Philip P. Brower, present head of GMDS, or some other person, be given clearance for such general cryptologic information as may be essential, in order that he may watch for and report to AFSA any documents of cryptologic interest to be found in the GMDS collection so that AFSA will not have to rely on chance discovery or make a systematic search of the GMDS files in order to benefit therefrom. For this purpose a list of German cryptologic units might be prepared as a guide.
    - B. That it be explained to Mr. Brower that AFSA is the sole designated Agency for handling such material and that it comes under the intent of Public Law 513 of 1950.
    - C. That one copy of each translation made by AFSA of non-cryptologic collateral material from the files of GMDS be deposited with GMDS for the benefit of other potential users. This may obviate the making of another

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translation for some other party, and perhaps make the GMS file of more value as a reference collection. Naturally, adequate provision would have to be made for safeguarding classified material. Unless the ECR Series were made available, there would at the present time be relatively few translations involved by such an arrangement. If desirable, cover pages showing translating agency can be removed.

R.W.P.

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