

17 October 1947

STATEMENT BY LT. COLONEL EARLE F. COOK:

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In the early part of 1943, I was on duty with Signal Security Agency, Office of the Chief Signal Officer.

As Chief of the Security Branch, Signal Security Agency, I had the responsibility for all cryptographic security. The making of recordings for Project X61753 was a cryptographic security function and, therefore, it was my responsibility to ascertain that pertinent military security regulations covering the handling of cryptographic material in all aspects were complied with by all contractors for this type material.

In conjunction with security investigations, I inspected the Bell Laboratories, World Broadcasting Company, and Musak Transcriptions, Inc., approximately semimonthly, beginning 1 February until April 1943, at which time the making of these inspections was transferred to Lt. Colonel Charles H. Hiser, my Deputy.

From conversations with Bell Laboratories engineers, principally Mr. Iden Kearney, and with officers of the 805th Signal Service Company, about the middle of March 1943, I got the impression and understanding that at such times as the recording equipment was made available to the Army, it would be operated entirely by personnel of the 805th Signal Service detachment, who were to be trained in the use of the equipment during the actual operations at World Broadcasting and Musak Transcriptions. During the operations at the World and Musak installations, the problem of deferments for recording and operating personnel employed by those organizations was referred to me. I, in turn, referred this matter to Army Communications Service, OCSigO. Unsuccessful attempts to secure deferments of this personnel and inability of the companies concerned to procure suitable recording engineers not subject to the draft were two difficulties encountered simultaneously with a directive for a greatly increased production rate for these records.

In view of the military necessity for this increased record production, it was my impression that the decision was made to utilize the personnel of the 805th Signal Service detachment as the only means of accomplishing the task.

During the time records were produced under the experimental (first) contract, it was my impression that no troop labor was used for other than security purposes.

It is desired to point out herein that the responsibility of the Signal Security Agency in this matter was entirely with security, and not with decisions as to the employment of personnel of the 805th Signal Security detachment. It was about the middle of March 1943 that I learned that personnel of the 805th Signal Service detachment were actually to be used on record production.

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EARLE F. COOK  
Lt. Colonel, Signal Corps

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U.S. AIR FORCE

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17 October 1947

## STATEMENT BY LT. COLONEL CHARLES H. HISER:

In late April 1943, I became Acting Chief of the Security Branch of the Signal Security Agency in anticipation of the departure of Colonel Earle F. Cook for temporary duty overseas.

In addition to my other duties, I was involved in the production of key records for the X51753 project. My responsibilities in connection with this project were to insure that security regulations were properly observed in the production of project records.

It was my impression from conversations with personnel of the Bell Telephone Laboratories and the 805th Signal Service Company that a decision had been reached in the Office of the Chief Signal Officer that military personnel would be used in the production of the keying records by use of the RC-250T1 equipment installed on the premises of World and Musak. It was further my impression that this decision was reached due to the fact that there was a shortage of trained civilian personnel available, that difficulties were encountered in obtaining draft deferments for existing personnel, and that the requirements for record production were greatly increased.

At about this time I understood that the Bell Telephone Laboratories were to undertake research necessary to perfect a direct recording process which would eliminate the requirement for wax recording and processing at World and Musak. The direct recording equipment was to be installed in Washington and to be operated by members of the 805th Signal Service Company. It is my impression that the decision to investigate the direct recording process, including the use of 805th personnel in Washington, influenced the decision to use troop labor on the RC-250T1 equipment, for training purposes, at World and Musak.

CHARLES H. HISER  
Lt. Colonel, Signal Corps

~~TOP SECRET~~