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 THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
 WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

COPY

Director, Communications-Electronics

DCEM 587
 Feb 3 1953
 CASE: US-282

~~SECRET SECURITY INFORMATION~~

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

SUBJECT: Communications Security (COMSEC) Matters

Reference: DCEM 572, dated 22 January 1953

Enclosure: Secretary of Defense Memo for Secretaries of the Army, Navy and Air Force, dated 27 January 1953, subject, same as above.

1. In the reference I recommended that the Joint Chiefs of Staff take appropriate action to insure that authority over communications security matters affecting the Military Departments should continue to be exercised by the Joint Chiefs of Staff. As a preliminary step I recommended that each Department participate in the preparation of the directives which establish policies and procedures concerning responsibilities for communications security matters.

2. Subsequent to forwarding the reference memorandum I was advised by General Magruder, Deputy for Psychological Policy, Office of the Secretary of Defense, that the question of extra military representation was considered inadvisable by Mr. Lay, Executive Secretary of the National Security Council. The basis for Mr. Lay's advice was the opposition of other government agencies to a preponderance of military representatives participating in writing the directives. As an alternative Mr. Lay suggested that assistants to my representative be designated by the Military Departments to insure that the views of the Departments are reflected in the Department of Defense position. In discussion with General Magruder I concurred in this alternative, as I felt that this would be a satisfactory compromise. A copy of the memorandum implementing this agreement is attached as the Enclosure.

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3. The agreement referred to above was made in view of the exigencies of the situation and does not reflect a change of my view that control of communications security matters by the Joint Chiefs of Staff is essential for the efficient operation of the communications of the three Departments.

/s/ John R. Redman
JOHN R. REDMAN
Rear Admiral, USN
Director, Communications-
Electronics

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ENCLOSURETHE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON~~SECRET~~
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27 January 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
SUBJECT: Communications Security (COMSEC) Matters.

In a memorandum of 28 October 1952 the Executive Secretary, National Security Council requested the names of staff representatives of the Secretary of Defense to assist in the preparation of directives for the Special Committee of the National Security Council establishing policies and procedures with respect to Communications Security (COMSEC). The Director, National Security Agency and the Director, Communications-Electronics were requested each to designate a representative from the Department of Defense.

It is requested that you designate a representative from your Department to sit with the representative designated by the Director, Communications-Electronics to advise and assist him in all matters of interest to your Department.

It is further requested that you inform the Director, Communications-Electronics the name of your designee.

FOR THE ACTING SECRETARY OF DEFENSE:

/s/ G. V. Underwood, Jr.
G. V. UNDERWOOD, JR.
Colonel, USA
Director, Executive Office

cc: Director, Communications-Electronics

Enclosure

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