

~~TOP SECRET CANOE~~~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~FINAL~~TOP SECRET CANOE - SECURITY INFORMATION - U.S. EYES ONLY~~SUBJECT NUMBER

USCIB: 23/76 Additional Item (B) (Not on Agenda) for the 89th Meeting of USCIB, held on 14 August 1953.

Subject: Allied (NATO) Communications Security

MR. ARMSTRONG said that he was prepared to report on progress made since the last meeting in connection with the French Problem. He informed the members that a staff paper, which incorporated a three-phase plan, had been prepared in his Department and had been approved by the Secretary and Under Secretary. He outlined briefly the phases of the plan, as follows:

- Phase I -- An approach to the French Government at the cabinet level by the US and UK Ambassadors designed to secure agreement in principle (1) that a broad program be undertaken through the NATO Standing Group to improve the security of the national communications of NATO countries and (2) that this program should be preceded by the development and application of adequate COMSEC standards on a Tripartite (US-UK-French) basis.
- Phase II -- Use of the existing Tripartite Security Working Group as a means to select appropriate and authoritative COMSEC representatives of the three governments who would compose a technical subgroup to develop and apply adequate COMSEC standards within the three governments.
- Phase III -- Direct contact between these COMSEC representatives.

He continued by saying that the Secretary had felt, when he discussed the matter with him, that the precarious political situation in France at the present time made it undesirable to approach them until the outcome of the crisis was somewhat clearer. He voiced the Secretary's request that the Board withhold an actual approach to the French for a few weeks until the governmental situation became more firm.

MR. ARMSTRONG expressed his opinion that it would take several weeks to complete preliminary arrangements and be in a position to brief the Ambassadors, and suggested, therefore, that the work of the Executive Committee not be unduly delayed.

CAPTAIN TAYLOR, inquiring as to the degree of urgency, asked if the paper being prepared should be considered by the Executive Committee at its next meeting (20 August), or at a subsequent meeting.

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After a brief discussion, in which it was brought out by Mr. Packard that the British were somewhat ahead of us in these preparations, it was agreed that the Executive Committee would consider the matter at the 20 August meeting.

DECISION: (14 August 1953) USCIB noted the presentation made by the Department of State member and agreed that the Executive Committee would consider the Department paper at its next meeting, on 20 August 1953.

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