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NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND

Serial: N 0445

2 FEB 1961

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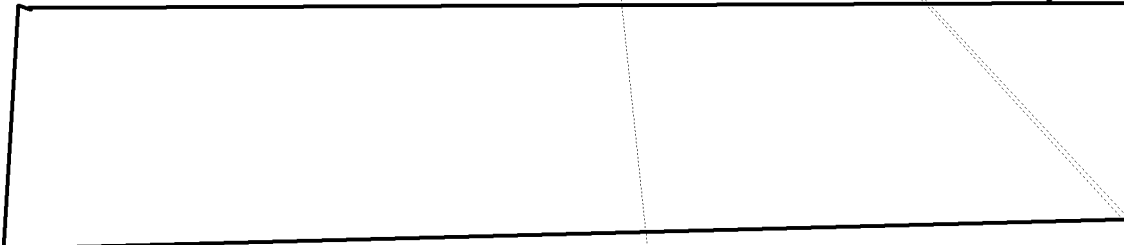
Director, Central Intelligence Agency
2430 E Street, N. W.
Washington 25, D. C.

PL 86-36/50 USC 3605
EO 3.3(h)(2)

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to NSA Memorandum for the Executive Secretary, USIB, Serial N 1285, Subject: CLOISTER Project, dated 31 March 1960 (Inclosure to USIB-C-9.7/4, dated 6 April 1960) and USIB-M-91, paragraph 3, dated 12 April 1960.

The National Security Agency has been constantly striving to improve its capability to produce COMINT from plain language voice communications. One of our most valuable resources is CLOISTER, an



Funds have been programmed recently to permit



We expect that this action will materially improve the capability of the National Security Agency to produce valuable COMINT for the entire community.

It will be necessary to complete appropriate background investigations for these [redacted] before they can be employed in the processing [redacted]. The one-time requirement to handle this number of investigations is beyond the capacity of our security investigative force to handle rapidly. It occurs to me, in seeking to avoid the delay, that CIA might be especially well equipped to handle investigations into the backgrounds of these particular individuals. Therefore, knowing you share the view of the community on the urgent need for a solution to our linguists problem,

Declassified and approved for release by
NSA on 10-23-2013 pursuant to E.O.
13526

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Reference (N0445)

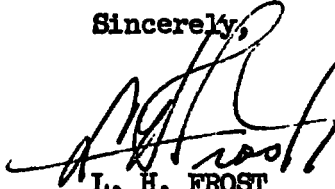
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I should like to inquire whether CIA might assist in conducting the background investigations for these employees. The National Security Agency would, of course, expect to reimburse CIA for this service.

Sincerely,



L. H. FROST
Vice Admiral, USN
Director

Copy furnished:
CIA Liaison Office, NSA

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Serial: N 0445

cc: DIR
AGReading File
OPS
PROD-001
PROD-03 (3)
PROD-04
AG-1
SEC (3)
GENS(5)
COSA(3)
S/ASST (1)PL 86-36/50 USC 3605
EO 3.3(h) (2)

M/R: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Background information and the status of the project (as of 31 Mar 60) are contained in reference "a" above. The interest of CIA (FI/D as well as OCI) in [REDACTED] in particular is reflected in PROD-03M M/R to PROD-03, 13 May 57, in PROD-04 (SPO) - FI/D teletype exchanges of 12 May 60, and notably and most recently in a Memorandum for PROD-05 from the CIA Senior Representative, NSA, dated 19 Dec 60, [REDACTED]

DIR/PROD notified DIR/SEC on 1 Sep 60 of his intention to hire an [REDACTED]. In reply to subsequent correspondence from PROD, SEC pointed out that USIB was requested to note the up-grading of CLOISTER to the level of Category II on DIRNSA's assurance that the risk would be negligible; this assurance was based on the investigative program proposed by SEC, namely: A valid and productive SEC-3 interview, a complete National Agency Check (NAC), and a background investigation initiated by SEC prior to granting access to the project. SEC is in a position to accomplish the interview and the NAC within a reasonable length of time. However, due to overriding workloads resulting from the Martin and Mitchell case, SEC is unable to complete background investigations of the [REDACTED]

The remaining 14 cases were on an average 50 percent completed. On 15 December 1960, SEC undertook completion action on the 18 cases referred to above.

Because of CIA's interest in [REDACTED] and that Agency's special qualifications for conducting the type of investigative action involved, Mr. Corry, PROD-03 Special Projects Officer, and Mr. Hillsbos, D/DIR SEC, contacted [REDACTED] on 13 December 1960. On

EO 3.3(h) (2)

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14 December 1960, [redacted] was amenable to NSA's request, but suggested that the proposal be forwarded in writing to Mr. Dulles. [redacted] indicated that they would add their comments to the letter before it was forwarded to Mr. Dulles for decision. In addition, Mr. Goldberg, of GENS-04, on 8 December 1960 sought and obtained assurance from [redacted] of the Special Intelligence Staff, OCI, that OCI would fully support NSA's request from the operational standpoint and would formally reiterate that office's great interest in [redacted]. This is reflected in the 19 Dec 60 memo for PROD-05 cited in the first paragraph above.

Coordinated with and concurred in by GENS-04 (Mr. Goldberg), SEC (Mr. Hilsbos), PROD-03 (Mr. Corry), COSA-302 (Mr. Vinson).

F. Senger
F. Senger/PROD-03/5216/2 Feb 61/ej

T. Lanman
T. Lanman/SEC-01/3195/2 Feb 61/ej

Added M/R: Rewritten in OPS in accordance with instructions from the Deputy Director.

B. J. Price
B. J. PRICE/OPS/4504s/2 Feb 61/ej

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