

TELETYPE

SUBJECT NUMBER

USCIB: 30/32

Item not on the Agenda for the Eighty-eighth Meeting of USCIB, held on 10 July 1953.

Subject:

Intercept Base Rights - [redacted]

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

MR. ARMSTRONG explained that the State Department had previously authorized and had underway surveys for sites for intercept stations in [redacted]. He said they now have a telegram from [redacted] saying that these surveys have been completed and that prior to the initiation of the surveys, the [redacted] requested that a meeting be held after the surveys to be attended by top intelligence personnel. He added that this meeting will probably involve all aspects of these projected negotiations, and that State Department would appreciate receiving guidance on what could be furnished so that response to the [redacted] request can be properly guided. He noted that this information was received on 7 July. Therefore, he said that his Department recommended to the Board that the following action be taken in response to the telegram (1) that when the meeting that the [redacted] will ask for is called, a competent intelligence representative be sent to [redacted] from Washington to participate as part of the U.S. negotiating team. He pointed out that since this intelligence representative must be capable of dealing with communications intelligence and communications aspects of the problem, he would have to be someone from NSA. Secondly, he said any questions raised by the [redacted] for quid pro quo on further COMINT arrangements between the U.S. and [redacted] intelligence activities should be referred to Washington via the intelligence representative through special channels. Next he said the Ambassador and key negotiating personnel in [redacted] should be indoctrinated for COMINT so as to be completely apprised of the problem and its implications. He added that they should also be completely informed of existing COMINT arrangements between U.S. and [redacted] intelligence activities. Regarding our arrangements in [redacted] he said we would have to reply to the telegram and provide our Ambassador with instructions as to making arrangements in connection with the points he made before. He added that steps would have to be taken by NSA if they are designated to carry on the representation from here; the person would have to be selected and provided with instructions and a communications channel set up through Navy at [redacted] or possibly a special system through the Secretary of Defense. He said there would be technical people in [redacted] to work on the problem there. Then he said we would have to consider what we will say or do if the [redacted] request COMINT on a quid pro quo basis, which they will inevitably do.

MR. COLLINS said that Mr. Rowlett who controls all contact with the [redacted] was present and might like to comment.

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The CHAIRMAN agreed.

MR. ROWLETT said he would like an opportunity to think about this and consider how the two things would work out together. He pointed out that CIA has some arrangements with the [redacted] whereby we have been receiving certain intercept material. He added that he thought the two tied in very closely and considerable assessment would be necessary.

MR. ARMSTRONG said that in lieu of asking the Board to make a decision at this point, he would like to suggest referring this to the Executive Committee for determination of recommendations to the Board and to assist in preparation of a reply to the Ambassador.

CAPTAIN TAYLOR said he would like to offer an additional suggestion that the Executive Secretary take Mr. Armstrong's proposal and circulate it first on vote sheet and if the vote sheet replies were not unanimous, have a Special Meeting of the Executive Committee.

The CHAIRMAN said he thought that Mr. Rowlett felt that he would like to have a look at the problem with Mr. Armstrong before it is circulated on vote sheet as there might be some amendments.

MR. ROWLETT said he would like that.

The CHAIRMAN then inquired if it was agreeable for State and CIA to get together on this, then circulate it on vote sheet and if there is any question it could be settled at the next meeting.

CAPTAIN TAYLOR said the Executive Committee could act on it in the interim.

The CHAIRMAN said he thought if everyone was in agreement, the Executive Committee could go ahead.

CAPTAIN TAYLOR replied that it would depend upon response to vote sheets, that if there were no comments that would require discussion it would stand approved by the Executive Committee and then go on to the Board, otherwise a meeting of the Executive Committee would be called to make further recommendations to the Board.

The CHAIRMAN stated that the above procedure is approved if there is no objection.

There was no objection. However, MR. ARMSTRONG stated that he believed there should be fairly fast action on the matter.

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At this point, COLONEL TOWNSEND said that he would like to ask that an Air Force representative be permitted to take part in these considerations, since the Air Force was in on the surveys.

The CHAIRMAN asked if he meant that the Air Force wanted to be on discussions at the Executive Committee.

COLONEL TOWNSEND replied that the Air Force is represented on the Executive Committee, but he had in mind the possibility of an Air Force representative being on hand during the discussion with the [redacted]. He said the Air Force recognized the fact that NSA has primary interest, but they would like to go along if possible.

MR. ARMSTRONG indicated he would get together with the Air Force on this.

CAPTAIN ROEDER said that as far as communications were concerned there would be no trouble in using the special channels.

COLONEL TOWNSEND said the G-2 SSO channel could also be used.

MR. ARMSTRONG agreed that there would be no problem in handling the communications.

DECISION: (10 July 1953) The State Department representative would confer with the interested parties, and if necessary, prepare a paper to be circulated by the Executive Secretary for vote sheet action.

The meeting adjourned at 1605.

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