

*File  
C-11-19*

19 November 1943

NOTES ON CONFERENCE HELD 18 NOVEMBER 1943 BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SIGNAL SECURITY AGENCY AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT

1. The conference was held for the purpose of discussing a proposed survey of the cryptographic facilities of the State Department by the Signal Security Agency. The Signal Security Agency was represented by Mr. Friedman, Major Hiser, and Captain Moak. The State Department was represented by Mr. Salmon and Mr. Goldsberry.

2. Mr. Salmon opened the discussion by presenting a memorandum dated 6 November 1943 from Mr. Stettinius to Mr. Shaw in which Mr. Stettinius pointed out that the President has expressed an interest in the security of State Department codes and ciphers. Mr. Stettinius then stated that an investigation of this subject by qualified representatives of the Army appeared desirable.

3. Mr. Friedman then made reference to a report dated 26 June 1941 of a survey made by representatives of the Signal Intelligence Service, the Office of Naval Communications, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. This report was read and a discussion followed from which it appeared that almost all of the recommendations made therein have been carried out by the Department.

4. Discussion of a general nature now followed which brought out the following points:

- a. The Department has allotted insufficient personnel for the proper performance of necessary cryptographic functions.
- b. Existing office space and reproduction facilities (multilith, etc.) are inadequate.
- c. The Assistant Security Officer has not been delegated proper responsibility over security functions of the operating division (The Division of Communications and Records) and it appears that the Security Officer has not exercised this responsibility.

5. At this point the question was raised as to whether the Committee had sufficient authority to go further into these matters. It was pointed out that the only existing authority was a letter from the Joint Communications Board to the Secretary of State in which the cooperation and advice of Army cryptographic experts was offered. The Committee felt that this letter did not meet the requirements and Mr. Friedman asked Mr. Salmon if he would be willing to write a letter for the signature of Mr. Stettinius in which the Department would specifically request a survey. Mr. Salmon agreed to do this if requested and the matter was dropped pending further perusal of the JCB letter.

11-19

11-19-43

~~SECRET~~

6. As a preliminary step Captain Noak was requested to make a brief survey of the systems now in use by the Department. This has been done and a copy of the report is attached hereto.

For the Committee:

*James G. Noak*  
James G. Noak  
Captain, Signal Corps

Copies to:

Mr. Friedman  
Mr. Salmon  
Major Hiser

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~**Statement of Cryptographic Systems now in use by Department of State.**

1. The Department of State cryptographic net is composed of 112 major stations (stations holding confidential or higher grade systems).

2. The systems held are as follows:

- (a) SIGMYC (secret): held by London and Washington.
- (b) Navy ECX (CSP 1127 - secret): held by Washington, Mexico City, Panama, Bogota, Lima, Santiago, Buenos Aires, Montevideo, Rio, Moscow. All stations in this net hold the same key lists, therefore, vertical and lateral communications are possible.
- (c) Strip (secret): held by all Embassies and Legations and some Consulates. Strip systems are composed essentially of 2 types, vertical and lateral. The old systems did not use Channel Elimination and the same set of strips was sometimes held by 2 to 4 stations, however new systems using Channel Elimination and limited to 2 holders are being distributed as fast as possible. The lateral system will use Channel Elimination beginning 1 January 1944. The lateral system changes every month and the vertical systems change in accordance with the amount of traffic.
- (d) A, B, and C (enciphered code - confidential): B and C are held by all Embassies and Legations. A is held by all Embassies, Legations and certain Consulates. A, B and C uses 3 different 2-part codes with different cipher tables for each.
- (e) BROWN (2-part code - restricted): held by all Embassies, Legations and Consulates except 9 Canadian Consulates. This code is used in the unenciphered form for Restricted traffic only.
- (f) GRAY (one-part code - restricted): held by all State Department Offices. This is an old code and at the present time has very little use.

3. The Department prepares all material used in the above systems with the following exception: Strips are photographed by Navy Department and printed by the Signal Security Agency.

4. In addition to the above an independent strip system (confidential) has been issued to 12 stations in Europe, North Africa, and Chungking for the use of the Federal Economic Administration, War Shipping Administration and the Office of Lend Lease Administration.

~~SECRET~~