

USCIB: 29.1/12

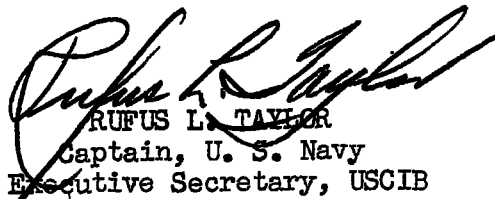
~~APPENDED DOCUMENTS CONTAIN
CODEWORD MATERIAL.~~

12 January 1954

~~TOP SECRET~~MEMORANDUM FOR THE MEMBERS OF USCIB:

Subject: Improvement of Communications Security during Berlin Conference.

The enclosure, which was considered by USCIB at the Ninety-Ninth (Special) Meeting, 11 January 1954, is forwarded for information.


RUFUS L. TAYLOR
Captain, U. S. Navy
Executive Secretary, USCIB

Enclosure
Dept. of State memo 24-302
dtd 11 Jan 1954, subj as above.

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USCIB: 29.1/12

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~~TOP SECRET FROTH~~

SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

11 January 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN, USCIB

Subject: Improvement of ~~Security of Communications~~
Security During Berlin Conference.

1. At the Special Meeting of USCIB on 7 January 1954 it was suggested that the Department of State look into the possibility of improving the security of French communications during the Berlin Conference of Foreign Ministers. At that time the Board had received a message from the British saying that they would welcome any proposals to that end.

2. At my request, the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee for the Improvement of Allied (NATO) Communications convened that group on 8 January in order to provide me with technical advice and to consider the effect of any technically feasible proposal on the US long-range program for the improvement of French COMSEC. A summary of the Committee's deliberations is attached to this memorandum.

3. I accept the Committee's conclusion that the only technically feasible method to achieve the purpose within the time available is to obtain French agreement that they, together with the UK and the US, will use only NATO approved first level systems for conference communications. I agree with the Committee that this does not contravene the terms of the US-UK Conference of June 1953 nor does it necessarily jeopardize the US long-range program under consideration by the British since 22 December 1953. I recognize, however, that French suspicion may be aroused by the fact that only they will have to change from a national system, and that the time period may prove too short for the French to obtain TYPEX machines from the British, if that is necessary. It should be noted also that the security of important French lateral communications will probably not be affected by this proposed method.

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4. I recommend that:

(a) USCIB take note of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee;

(b) USCIB not act favorably with respect to the proposal, primarily for reasons other than technical; and

(c) the UK be advised that the US has considered this matter and believes that no steps should be taken with respect to French COMSEC during the Berlin Conference.

/s/ W. PARK ARMSTRONG, JR.

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