

Capt M

~~To note.~~

Col L phoned on 12 Jan  
to say Defense member  
of USCIB is going to  
take it up in USCIB

~~TOP SECRET~~

7 January 1955

~~TOP SECRET~~

MEMORANDUM FOR COLONEL LANSING, CHIEF, NSA PENTAGON LIAISON GROUP

SUBJECT: State Department Proposed Publication of Unclassified Documentary History of World War II Conferences.

1. The galley proofs furnished in connection with the subject contain the texts of two intercepted and deciphered Japanese messages of 12 July 1945 [No. 9lx] and 13 July 1945 [No. 9ly]. (The galley proof of a third message [No. 8yba] has nothing to do with the subject and was probably included inadvertently. However, there are other messages which do pertain to the same subject as do Nos. 9lx and y, but are apparently not to be included in the forthcoming publication, for reasons difficult to discern. Is it possible that they are on galley sheets not sent us?)

2. It is true that the texts of the two Japanese messages (Nos. 9lx and y) are in the public domain, having been published in the documents of the International Military Tribunal for the Far East and referred to in detail in the Forrestal Diaries. In this connection, Inclosure 1 will be of interest. There is also on record a radio broadcast by Mr. Drew Pearson on 23 March 1947, a copy of whose remarks on the subject matter of these messages is attached as Inclosure 2. These remarks, as well as those in the Forrestal Diaries, and the proposed footnote to No. 9lx, make it perfectly clear that U.S. authorities at the Potsdam Conference knew of the approach made by the Japanese Foreign Minister to the Russians via Sato, the Japanese ambassador in Moscow, and that they waited in vain to see if the Russians would say anything about the approach that was made to them.

3. The fact that the messages are in the public domain is quite obvious. Nevertheless, whether the State Department should include the texts of the messages in the forthcoming publication because of this fact is not alone a security or technical question. It also involves questions of policy. For example, I do not believe that the Executive Branch of the Government has ever acknowledged in print that Japanese messages were intercepted and read before and during World War II, although, of course, the various boards and committees which investigated the attack on Pearl Harbor issued reports which also are now in the public domain and which include the texts of hundreds of intercepted and solved messages establishing conclusively that the U.S. engaged in cryptanalytic activities. It is not only possible but indeed quite probable that COMINT policy would prefer to eliminate from the proposed State Department publication all official revelations of U.S. success in the cryptanalytic field. For instance, to

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

quote from USCIB Directive No. 15, approved 29 December 1954:

"III. POLICY

It is essential that all reference to the existence of any COMINT activity, either direct or indirect, be avoided except among those to whom the knowledge is necessary for the proper performance of their duties."

4. In your original teletype note it was also stated that the forthcoming State Department publication "would include article describing the U.S. success in intercepting and decoding Japanese traffic before and during the war." It is your understanding that this part of the project has been dropped but it would be well to confirm it, for if this is still being contemplated the text of such an article should by all means be submitted to the appropriate authorities for clearance.

5. For reasons such as the foregoing this matter should, in my opinion, be brought before USCIB for determination and I suggest that this be the answer given to JIG, who can take it up with the appropriate officials in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. Such action would be consonant with para. III, 3 of the Directive referred to above, which is as follows:

"3. Public Utterances

Maximum feasible administrative action will be taken to require that all public utterances which may contain information about COMINT are submitted, for review and advice, to the cognizant USCIB member prior to such utterance. In the event that such information already publicly revealed is included in a document submitted by a private source for review, an attempt by persuasion should be made to either eliminate such information or express it in such general terms as to conceal, to the maximum degree possible, specific associations with COMINT activities."

WILLIAM F. FRIEDMAN ✓  
Special Assistant

Incls: 2  
W/s

~~TOP SECRET~~

COPY

December 8, 1954

Dear Mr. Friedman:

I quote below the text of a memorandum relating to your inquiry of December 2, with respect to a forthcoming publication on the wartime conferences. The source of the information is Mr. G. Bernard Noble, Chief of the Historical Division, Department of State:

"1. The text of the messages (there were three, I believe) is included in the volumes on the Potsdam Conference.

"2. The text is quoted from the published proceedings of the Tokyo War Crimes Trials, so the material is in print already.

"3. There is a footnote which states that the text of these messages was 'known to' US officials on July 13.

"4. There is a further footnote reference to the published Forrestal Diaries in which the process of obtaining the material is clearly identified.

"5. The text further quotes Secretary Stimson writing that he received from the Pentagon an 'interesting message' on July 16.

"6. The phrasing of the footnote mentioned in 3 above is as agreed with the Pentagon to replace a more explicit statement on the galley-proofs submitted to Defense."

Sincerely yours,

W. PARK ARMSTRONG, Jr.

Mr. William F. Friedman  
Special Assistant  
National Security Agency  
Washington

COPY

COPY

23 March 1947

ERWIN PEARSON (ABC) PREDICTION NO. 5, The Yalta Agreement:

The State Department will soon make public the wartime secret agreements and here is my prediction regarding one important secret affecting the peace of the world. The Yalta Agreement, I predict, will show that Franklin Roosevelt urged Stalin to enter the Japanese War just as soon as Germany surrendered. In order to get such a promise from Stalin, Roosevelt and Churchill finally gave Russia the following territory: The Kurile Islands, all of Outer Mongolia, and two vital seaports in Manchuria, Dairen, and Port Arthur. Despite this guarantee that Russia would enter the Japanese War, I predict that history will show that Stalin came to the Potsdam Conference with a Japanese peace proposal in his pocket but he did not disclose this joyful news to Churchill and Truman. Actually, they knew he had a Japanese offer because we had been decoding Japan's secret cables and so Truman and Churchill waited several days for Stalin to make known the Japanese proposal. However, when Stalin said nothing Truman and Churchill regretfully concluded that Russia did not want the Japanese war to end and I predict that history will show this was why Truman and Churchill finally decided to drop the atom bomb.

23 Mar/7 p.m.

COPY

Col. Hausing was a bit disturbed that the proofs were returned to him with no further guidance or decision. He called here for some enlightenment. I told him that, in view of the note appended thereon indicating that haste was desired in returning the papers to their source, "rather complete notations on the pertinent parts" were made here so that the papers could be returned, and that further guidance would undoubtedly be forthcoming when you get back to the office.

20 Dec

Jm