

TENTATIVE

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SUBJECT NUMBER

USCIB: 13.5/2 Item 6 of the Agenda for the Sixth Meeting of
USCIBEC, held on 20 August 1953.

Subject: Compromise of COMINT Information (USCIB 13/358).

The CHAIRMAN explained that he had made the proposal contained in USCIB 13/358 in an effort to bring under control the increasing number of security violations which were being reported. He said that comments which he had already received revealed that paragraph 6a of his paper should be amended. He suggested the following rewording:

"With the view to providing expert advice and assistance to those member departments and agencies which do transmit undisguised COMINT by electrical means and in collaboration with the member department or agency concerned, immediately conduct an examination of the cryptosystems, procedures, practices and training programs used by such member department or agency for the purpose stated. (Nothing in this paragraph is intended to imply the right of inspection without consent of the member department or agency concerned.)"

MR. GODEL moved that action on the paper be deferred pending issuance of the COMSEC Directive which was presently under consideration by the NSC Planning Staff.

The CHAIRMAN said that General Canine had also suggested to him that action be held up until the matter of the COMSEC Directive was settled. He pointed out, however, that the directive in question would not apply to COMINT unless it specifically so stated, and went on to say that he considered the COMINT security situation serious enough to warrant the most expeditious action possible. The action proposed in his memorandum, he said, was in reality an Executive Secretary matter; however, due to the fact that his office was not staffed to handle the problem, he thought the matter should be placed in the hands of the Director, NSA.

MR. PACKARD recognized this as a critical problem and recommended approval of USCIB 13/358, with or without the change to paragraph 6a.

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LT. COLONEL LONG said that he looked at the paper differently, pointing out that the Army had rather strict regulations pertaining to, for example, inspections of crypto centers on a semiannual basis. He said that the Army inspectors were expert in the field and could be relied upon to discover and correct insecure standards and procedures. He concluded by expressing his view that the Executive Secretary had extended himself in no little way in making the proposals contained in the paper before the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN, referring again to the seriousness of the situation, pointed out the advantages of a program such as he had recommended, and said that to him the unwillingness of a member organization to participate indicated a lack of seriousness of purpose in the matter. He stated further that he believed he has a full appreciation of the command and administrative responsibilities of the individual members, but that he did not feel he could discharge his own duties as USCIB Security Officer without urging that positive and effective action be taken. He added that he believed a reasonable solution could be reached and that anything short of a strict surveillance and disciplinary program would not suffice.

LT. COLONEL LONG assured the members that there was no intent on the part of the Army to appear reluctant to improve communications security. He added that he was prepared to recommend certain amendments to the proposed procedure which, if accepted, would make the plan acceptable to the Army.

There followed a discussion as to whether the paper should be considered at this meeting, or deferred until decision was reached on the COMSEC Directive. It was ultimately agreed that the paper would be considered further at the next regular meeting of the Committee.

DECISION: (20 August 1953) USCIBEC agreed to defer consideration of USCIB 13/358 until the next regular meeting, by which time it is expected that definitive action will have been taken by NSC with regard to the directive pertaining to COMSEC.

This item to remain on the agenda.

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