

BRIEFING SHEET FOR THE CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF MEETING, 1430, MONDAY

22 JANUARY 1951

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER 3

J.C.S. 2074/7

SUBJECT: REPORTS OF THE UK/US COMMUNICATION SECURITY CONFERENCE

BACKGROUND:

1. The J.C.S. 2074 series provides the following background:

a. The British Chiefs of Staff proposed that there be a complete interchange of cryptographic principles and policy on a reciprocal basis in order to solve the problem of the replacement of the Combined Cipher Machine, as well as other combined communication security problems.

b. The U.S. Chiefs of Staff informed the British Chiefs of Staff that they were unable to accept the proposal for full exchange of information but recommended exchange of cryptographic information in specific categories. A 7-rotor cipher machine under development in the U.S. was proposed for possible future use as a Combined Cipher Machine.

CURRENT REPORT:

the basis for a machine to serve as

2. In conferences held in Washington, commencing 21 September 1950, U.K. and U.S. representatives agreed that cryptographic principles of the 7-rotor cipher machine be adopted as a replacement for the present Combined Cipher Machine. Other cryptographic systems within the categories agreed on were demonstrated and discussed.

3. The Chairmen of the U.S. and U.K. Delegations jointly recommend to the U.S. Chiefs of Staff and the British Chiefs of Staff that:

a. Immediately and on a continuing basis, there be a complete interchange of technical details of the cryptographic systems discussed in this conference and that technical visits to accomplish this be arranged.

b. There be annual conferences on these subjects for the next four years, to be held alternately in London and Washington, and that the first of these take place in London approximately nine months after this conference (July 1951).

c. The U.S.-U.K. JCEC (Joint Communications-Electronics Committee) consider and resolve as a matter of urgency the combined operational requirements in the fields covered by the conference.

d. Interchange of information on other items of combined interest such as security aspects of IFF, authentication systems, and key-tape generators be discussed at future conferences, and that combined requirements for general point-to-point on-line encryption be discussed at the next conference.

4. In the process of coordinating the Reports with the Armed Forces Security Agency Council and the Joint Communications-Electronics Committee, it was brought out that the conferees had agreed to disclosure of the 7-rotor cipher machine to the British Commonwealth. The Director, Armed Forces Security Agency, has recommended that disclosure, without prior agreement, be limited to the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand in accordance with current policies of the State-Defense Military Information Control Committee and of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (J.C.S. 927/89). This recommendation would preclude disclosure of the new combined cipher machine to [redacted]

[redacted] This limitation is expressed in the draft Memorandum for the British Chiefs of Staff contained in Enclosure "C" of J.C.S. 2074/7.

5. The British Chiefs of Staff have indicated acceptance of the subject reports (J.C.S. 2074/8).

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

RECOMMENDATION:

6. It is recommended that the joint recommendations of the Chairmen of the conferees be approved, subject to the limitations described in paragraph 4 above.

DISTRIBUTION:

General Bradley (3)
Secretary, JCS (4)
Secretary, JCEC (4)

Declassified and approved for release by NSA on 05-20-2014 pursuant to E.O. 13526

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