

DISPOSITION FORM~~SECRET~~

FILE NO.

SUBJECT

Digest of Staff Conference, 29 Sept 1953

TO

Chiefs of Offices
and Staff Divisions

FROM

C/S

DATE

30 Sept 1953

COMMENT NO. 1

1. DIRECTOR

a. Commenting on PROD's report that as of 15 October there would be no numbers used as organizational designators, the Director stated his opposition to extension of the number system of designators to the point where only people within the designated unit can remember its long-winded string of numbers: "I DON'T OBJECT TO BRIEF NUMERICAL DESIGNATORS, BUT I DO OBJECT MOST STRENUOUSLY TO THE '06A19C3462' KIND OF THING."

b. In response to COMP's statements concerning the awarding of outstanding performance ratings to civilian personnel of the Agency, the Director expressed the opinion that NSA has the best personnel he had ever seen in Government and noted his concern over the fact that the majority of the outstanding performance ratings which had come to him for signature were on high ranking personnel. "OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE RATINGS ARE FINE, I'M IN FAVOR OF THEM, BUT LET'S BE CERTAIN WE RECOGNIZE AN OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE AT WHATEVER LEVEL IT IS TURNED IN. AND ANOTHER THING, LET'S BE REALISTIC IN OUR RATING SYSTEM. I WANT COMP AND THE PERSONNEL PEOPLE TO GET BUSY ON THIS HANDLING OF OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE REPORTS NOW. I WANT OUR SYSTEM TO BE REALISTIC AND EQUITABLE. I WANT TO TAKE CARE OF THE 2ND LIEUTENANTS AND GS-5's AS WELL AS THE COLONELS AND P-38's."

c. In commenting on PERS' report that the Air Force reduction in force might affect some of the enlisted personnel assigned to NSA, the Director expressed his reluctance to interfere with Services' handlings of such matters: "I HESITATE TO INTERFERE WITH ANY SERVICE IN A SITUATION WHERE I'M GETTING EQUAL TREATMENT WITH ALL THE OTHER PEOPLE AFFECTED. IN PARTICULAR, I'M RELUCTANT TO DEMAND SPECIAL TREATMENT AT A TIME LIKE THE PRESENT WHEN THE SERVICES ARE HARD PRESSED IN TERMS OF ENFORCED REDUCTIONS IN THEIR ESTABLISHMENTS. I DON'T WANT NSA TO GET IN THE POSITION OF BEING EXEMPTED FROM ALL THE UNPLEASANT DUTIES AND RESTRICTIONS AND TO END UP WITH FAR MORE ENEMIES THAN FRIENDS."

2. CHIEF OF STAFF

Noted that since the preceding Weekly Staff Conference, a decision had been made by the OSD to the effect that NSA was to be considered a part of the OSD insofar as the matter of handling efficiency and fitness reports of NSA military personnel is concerned. He added that this action would mark the end of the "letter type" reports within NSA. He continued that the memorandum of instruction would be promulgated during the current week: "WE MUST MAKE CERTAIN THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE SECDEF INSTRUCTION IS IMPLEMENTED WITHIN NSA; I.E., THAT THE REPORTS ON OFFICERS OF THE ARMED SERVICES ARE PREPARED BY PERSONS WHO KNOW

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THE OFFICERS AND THEIR CAPABILITIES AND WHO ARE AWARE OF THE PROCEDURES AND CUSTOMS OF THE SERVICE CONCERNED IN EACH CASE."

3. DCS/P

Noted that reliable sources in the OSD had indicated that NSA would be permitted to draft the SECDEF memorandum in implementation of the NSC paper on the National COMSEC effort.

4. PRODUCTION

a. Reported that an effort had got under way to solve the problem of storage facilities for both "live" and "dead" material. Added that one aspect of the program was to try to get helpful opinions from personnel at all levels of the PROD effort.

b. Reported that as of 15 October 1953, numerical designators for organizational components of PROD would be abandoned in favor of literal descriptions.

5. R/D

Reported favorable action by the Bureau of the Budget on NSA's recent request for money to be used for the AFSA 809 project.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Commented that the installation of "on line" facilities at Fort Lyautey would be delayed because of the move of the station to another site in the area. Noted that this would have the effect of delaying the whole "on line" USF-61 to NSA project until about January 1954.

b. Reported that the Telephone Company would interpose no objection to the number of voice channels derived by NSA in terms of the Fort Meade to Washington communication link, unless NSA's handling interferes with the Telephone Company's technical operations.

7. SECURITY

Reported that the Army had finally become reconciled to the "non-critical crypto-equipments" arrangement approved by SECDEF and permitting private manufacturers to work on some kinds of crypto-equipment. Added that NSA was thus enabled to proceed with important plans for farming out particular crypto-equipment problems which would meet the requirements of the "non-critical" category.

8. MACHINE PROCESSING

Commented that a recent field trip by representatives of the ASA Machine Processing Section had served to call attention to NSA's failure to provide similar service to NSA processing activities in the field. Suggested that perhaps the ASA machine processing personnel should be transferred to NSA. Emphasized the need for field visits by representatives of NSA MACH PROC.

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