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

Security of COMINT Communications

Chief, Office of   Chief, Office of   **26 APR 1952**
    Operations (O2)   Communication Security (O4)   CCCorry/411/60426/jp

1. A potentially serious insecurity in COMINT Communications has developed as a result of investigation of a message DTG 1622122 April originated by AFSA-242T4. The message bore an operational immediate precedence and was transmitted to practically every activity identified by security traffic analysts as concerned with communications intercept. Presence of either condition is sufficiently unusual to warrant special attention of foreign T/A personnel. Investigation revealed that the message informed addressees of a [ ] change on 15 April. It is believed that any elementary traffic analysis effort could draw realistic conclusions.

2. AFSA-242 has been contacted directly and a procedure has been established whereby, in similar circumstances, several separate message with varying external characteristics will be transmitted. This is an interim measure for use until more satisfactory protective measures can be implemented.

3. It appears essential that a cover program must be initiated to protect such transmission in the future in order to avoid placing severe restrictions on the originator. This Office will prepare and implement such measures as are considered appropriate. To aid in planning, it is requested that Transmission Security Branch (AFSA-411) be placed on internal distribution for the following types of messages originated by your office to field activities:

     a. Those dealing with general changes in communications or cryptographic procedures or systems.

     b. Those given a precedence of Operational Immediate or higher.

     c. Those which are addressed to all field activities.

R.C. SEARS
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