

~~SECRET SECURITY INFORMATION~~

Proposed First Revision of the NSA Security Manual

SEC

ASST to S/ASST

23 Sept 53

1. It is regretted that the urgency of other matters has delayed these comments on NSASM I and II. Major Hermes has given the assurance that appropriate comments are welcome at any time, hence the following is now submitted.

2. In general, regulations have force and authority that are lacking in a manual. This publication is called a manual, and yet, within the text it is referred to as a set of security regulations. The thought occurs that the title itself might be a misnomer, and that perhaps it should be "NSA Security Regulations," with a special number series being allotted to it under the new NSA Regulations Control system set up by the Adjutant General.

3. It is noted that details of a property pass system are to be published by separate memoranda. In this regard, it is recommended that a single system be adopted to eliminate the current distinction between officers of the military and civilians.

4. The new, more restrictive system of security indoctrination of personnel proposed in this publication is very well received.

5. In further regard to the security indoctrination of personnel, it is felt that some people just entering employment at NSA are in a state of mild confusion during their initial reading of PL 513, the security oath, and other pertinent documents. This confusion could exist simply because the people concerned have not yet been in contact with the materials and information referred to, and hence do not realize the explicit import of their oath. After thirty days following their initial employment at NSA, these people will probably have been exposed to the materials and information referred to in their indoctrination. In order that the full and explicit significance of the security oath be continually realized by all, it is suggested that, after a person has been on the job for thirty days at NSA, he be required to re-read the statement of his oath as well as PL 513, and that a periodic reading of the oath be set up on the same basis as now pertains to PL 513.

6. It is recommended that information contained in par. 514.2 of NSASM II be thoroughly reviewed in the light of current US/UK Canadian agreements and existing arrangements for releasing current cryptographic equipment to members of NATO. Attention is also called to the authority of USCIB, AFSAC and the newly formed COMSEC Board. In addition, it is felt that some reference should be made to the existence of the State-Defense Military Information Coordinating Committee [S-DMICC], who is the ranking authority in these matters.

7. I have discussed these comments with Mr. Friedman, and he concurs with the statements contained herein.

15/ 24 Sept. 53

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