

~~TOP SECRET~~102nd USCIB Meeting

Item 3

INCREASE IN SCOPE OF
USCIB AUTHORITY (ELINT)BACKGROUND

1. A proposed plan for establishing ELINT in the Department of Defense was recently discussed by General Erskine with the Service Intelligence Chiefs, and Mr. Quarles, Assistant Secretary of Defense (R&D). No definite conclusions were reached but the Intelligence Chiefs appeared to be in agreement that the matter could be presented to USCIB for consideration of whether USCIB should accept responsibility for broad national policy on ELINT. General Trudeau several times mentioned the desirability of also considering COMSEC as an additional responsibility of USCIB.

2. On 5 April, Mr. Zander of OSO met with representatives of the three Services and NSA to ascertain the views of the Services on their concept of a structure under USCIB for the conduct of ELINT matters.

3. The following Service positions seemed to be established:

a. The Services could not agree to operational and technical control vested in a Board, Committee, or a single individual. The view that the commander in the field must have operational control of his ELINT facilities was predominant in their discussion.

b. The Navy took the view that the "apparent" trend toward an NSA type of organization for ELINT was not desirable.

c. The Air Force member did not regard such a "trend" undesirable but agreed an NSA type structure was not wanted. He did not see the necessity for a consideration of COMSEC at this time, and stated that operational control of ELINT facilities should not be taken from the commander in the field.

d. The Army seemed to be agreed that if COMSEC were included in the responsibilities of USCIB along with ELINT, they would go along with the whole idea. Such a set-up was visualized as having three committees under the Board for each of the major fields of responsibility.

4. In summary, the general views expressed at the meeting (NSA abstaining) were:

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a. Establish under USCIB an Executive Committee for each major field - COMINT and ELINT. The ELINT committee could have intelligence and communications representation. The ELINT committee would formulate broad policy for ELINT including foreign liaison matters, establish requirements for ELINT, and guide a JEAG type organization for processing ELINT material.

b. Leave to the field commander responsibility for collection and local processing of ELINT data.

5. It was learned on 6 April that General Trudeau agreed that the COMSEC aspects need not be considered by USCIB at this time.

CURRENT CONSIDERATION

6. The paper submitted by General Erskine (USCIB 9.4/1) proposes that:

a. USCIB consider the desirability, in principle, of extending its responsibilities to the field of Electronics Intelligence.

b. If an affirmative decision is made, USCIB authorize General Erskine to undertake, in collaboration with other members as necessary, to draft a revision of pertinent sections of NSCID No. 9 to be submitted for approval to the Board, for consideration by the Special Committee of the NSC, and for action by the NSC.

7. NSA considers this proposal (6a) constructive as far as it goes. It does not go far enough in that it does not meet the Director, NSA's minimum requirement that unified operational and technical control of ELINT collection and processing be established under a Director who would have authority paralleling that of Director, NSA.

8. With respect to that part of the proposal (6b) calling for a revision of pertinent sections of NSCID No. 9, NSA must exercise great caution. We feel that USCIB's responsibilities can be extended to include ELINT without an actual revision of NSCID No. 9. This could be accomplished by means of an addendum to NSCID No. 9, for example.

9. The danger in agreeing to a general revision of NSCID No. 9 lies in the fact that sections affecting the unified organization and control of the U.S. COMINT effort may suffer. This is a grave national responsibility assigned to the Director, NSA, and should not be vitiated.

10. We can agree to a revision of pertinent sections of NSCID No. 9 provided adequate assurance is given in advance that the uniquely COMINT sections of the Directive would not be altered.

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11. It is understood that NAVY may recommend against USCIB agreement in principle on this proposal at this meeting and suggest instead that SECDEF be asked to draft the implementing procedures required and then submit the entire package to USCIB. In this way, according to Navy, USCIB will be able to vote on the principle and the implementation at the same time.

12. We feel that the Navy recommendation, if made, can only result in time-consuming drafting delays which will put off for months a decision on the principle of policy control of ELINT. NSA should not support such a recommendation.

13. NSA should not favor any proposal that USCIB cognizance be broadened to include COMSEC in the present consideration.

14. NSA should take the position of an interested observer in the discussion, unless it becomes clear that the members have in mind a general revision of NSCID No. 9. This should be opposed.

15. NSA should support the principle of USCIB adding ELINT to its responsibilities.

16. If, however, the decision to be voted on reflects Service agreement that USCIB should take on ELINT only with the understanding that this will not lead to unified operational and technical control of ELINT, then NSA must vote against it. It should be urged that the principle be approved without any strings attached.

RECOMMENDATION

17. At the conclusion of discussion on the item, Director, NSA, should make the following motion:

Move that USCIB agree in principle to extend its responsibilities to include ELINT, and that the SECDEF member be authorized to draft, in collaboration with other interested members, a revision of only those sections of NSCID No. 9 that would be required to extend the scope of USCIB responsibility to include the field of Electronics Intelligence.

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