

USCIB: 29.1/15

~~APPENDED DOCUMENTS CONTAIN
CODEWORD MATERIAL~~

19 January 1954

~~TOP SECRET - U.S. EYES ONLY~~

MEMORANDUM FOR THE MEMBERS OF USCIB:

Subject: Improvement of French Communications Security for the Berlin Conference.

References: (a) USCIB 29.1/11 (Minutes of 98th Meeting).
(b) USCIB 29.1/14 (Minutes of 99th Meeting).
(c) USCIB 29.1/12 of 12 January 1954.

1. Reference (a) quotes a reply by USCIB (CIB 00010) to the LSIB message distributed as an enclosure with USCIB 29.1/10. This reply informed LSIB, inter alia, that USCIB was studying further the above subject and would advise if any action were contemplated. Reference (b) informed U.K. authorities that USCIB had agreed not to take action in this regard.

2. On 13 January 1954, enclosure 1 herewith was received by the Director, NSA, from Director, GCHQ, asking that the matter of assistance to the French be considered from the COMSEC angle.

3. The Director, NSA, referred this matter to the Executive Secretary for appropriate action as a matter still under the cognizance of USCIB. At the same time the Director, NSA, commented to the effect that the solution proposed by the Ad Hoc Committee (included with the enclosure to reference (c)) is technically feasible and would be acceptable to him. He added, however, that if for other reasons than technical feasibility, the Chairman and the State Department member felt it undesirable to accede to the new U.K. request contained in enclosure 1, he, the Director, National Security Agency, would be quite ready to defer to their views in this matter.

4. Accordingly, the Executive Secretary met with the Chairman and the Department of State member at 1500, Friday, 15 January 1954, to consider what action should be taken in reply. The Chairman reviewed, in the light of enclosure 1, the decision rendered by USCIB at its 99th Meeting and was unable to discover any new factors requiring consideration by the Board. The Department of State member informed the Chairman and the Executive Secretary that nothing new had occurred to change the view presented by STATE at the 99th Meeting of the Board and that enclosure 1 presented nothing additional to alter that view. It was noted that the U.K. Liaison Officer had verbally requested the Executive Secretary to provide any reasons we might have for giving a negative answer. It was agreed by the Chairman and the Department of State member

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Declassified and approved for release by NSA on 04-18-2014 pursuant to E.O. 13526

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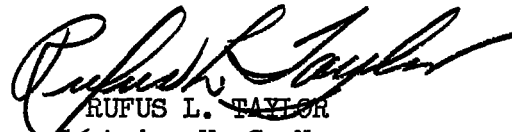
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Subject: Improvement of French Communications Security for the
Berlin Conference.

that, in the absence of serious objection from the NSA member, the Executive Secretary should be instructed to give the U.K. Liaison Officer a reply along the lines set forth in enclosure 2 without further reference to the Board inasmuch as no change in the Board's previous position is involved.

5. As a result of the foregoing, a reply (see enclosure 2) was forwarded, on 19 January 1954, to the Senior U.K. Liaison Officer. It is considered that this reply may have the effect of closing the issue of providing cryptographic assistance to the French for the coming Berlin Conference.


RUFUS L. TAYLOR
Captain, U. S. Navy
Executive Secretary, USCIB

Enclosures

1. Copy of GCHQ msg DTG 131805Z/1/54.
2. Copy of CIB #00020 dtd 19 Jan 1954.

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~~TOP SECRET FROTH~~BRITISH JOINT SERVICES MISSION
MAIN NAVY BUILDING
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.~~TOP SECRET FROTH~~

PL 86-36/50 USC 3605

Copy of signal from Mr. [] to Brigadier Tiltman.

From: G.C.H.Q.

DTG: 131805Z/1/54.

To: S.L.O., Washington.

TILTMAN from DIRECTOR.

Offer to Germans has been made and we await their reaction. In meantime Cypher Policy Board have formally expressed their grave concern over French insecurity with special reference to Berlin Conference. Their concern is shared by Foreign Office. We had hoped from tone of your 052115 that U.S. would take action in regard to French Comsec at Berlin. GCHQ have no comments from Sigint angle. Penney has asked that you pursue matter with Canine urging importance from Comsec as opposed to Comint point of view.

Enclosure 1 with USCIB 29.1/15 dtd 19 Jan 1954.

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CIB # 00020

19 January 1954

~~TOP SECRET~~MEMORANDUM FOR THE SENIOR U.K. LIAISON OFFICER:

Subject: Improvement of French Communications Security
for the Berlin Conference.

1. GCHQ DTG 131805Z of January 1954 was referred to me by the Director, National Security Agency for action owing to the fact that the subject matter of the proposal contained therein is still under the cognizance of USCIB.

2. The Chairman of the Board has instructed me to inform you that (a) we are unable to discern any questions of U.S./U.K. cryptographic security that might be involved in the insecurity of French communications for the Berlin Conference, (b) the Board is of the opinion that a short range solution to improve the security of the conference link itself is not likely to be effective owing to the risk of the same information being revealed in lateral French communications, and (c) a solution to French Communication Security problems for the Berlin Conference to be effective would probably involve questions already under consideration in implementation of the long range plan decided at the June Conference. It is felt that the long range plan is so important that we should do nothing that would require reconsideration of it at this advanced stage in our planning.

3. It is hoped that we can soon complete the plan submitted through the Combined Working Group so as to be able to initiate with the French at an early date technical talks for a long range solution.

(Signed)
RUFUS L. TAYLOR
Captain, U. S. Navy
Executive Secretary, USCIB

Copy to: DIRNSA

Enclosure 2 with USCIB 29.1/15 dtd 19 Jan 1954.