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SUBJECT NUMBER

USCIB: 29.17/19 Item 3 of the Agenda for the 112th Meeting of USCIB, held on 11 February 1955.

Subject: COMINT Relations with [redacted]

THE ACTING CHAIRMAN (General Cabell) asked if there were any objections to accepting the list of [redacted] requirements for equipment set forth in LSIB 28/55 which was circulated as an enclosure with USCIB 29.17/13.

GENERAL LEWIS said that the Air Force has certain reservations as it appeared that a good deal of the equipment is for ELINT purposes rather than COMINT purposes. He stated that it does not appear proper for USCIB to get into the ELINT business at this time. He pointed out that the Air Force is not in favor of the U.K. acting as brokers for the United States in the ELINT business. Some time ago, he continued, the Air Force set up procedures for furnishing ELINT equipment to the [redacted] We are now, he said, implementing that program. He concluded by expressing his opinion that the ELINT portion of the proposed transaction should be eliminated.

THE ACTING CHAIRMAN asked if elimination of ELINT equipment from the list would materially delay or eliminate the U.S. ELINT take from [redacted]

GENERAL LEWIS replied that he felt this was a pertinent point. If, he continued, the Air Force has correctly read and interpreted the equipment list enclosed with USCIB 29.17/13, it involves ELINT equipment which is in short supply. We have, through careful planning, he commented, been able to make some of the equipment available for delivery in Europe. Should ELINT equipment be eliminated from the list under discussion, it would facilitate present negotiations. The Air Force might then proceed, he concluded, without running any risk of upsetting relations.

GENERAL ERSKINE stated that since the U.S. ELINT problem has not been settled, he was of the opinion that ELINT equipment should be eliminated from the list as USCIB has no jurisdiction over it.

THE CHAIRMAN asked if separation of ELINT and COMINT equipment would run the risk of stopping the flow of COMINT data from [redacted]

GENERAL ERSKINE advised that the Air Force has an ELINT agreement with [redacted] and asked General Lewis if there was anything in the agreement which might help to clarify this point.

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

USCIB: 29.17/19

GENERAL LEWIS was of the opinion that the exchange agreement between [redacted] and the Air Force is mutually beneficial and that there have been no indications of dissatisfaction of any kind. He then pointed out that the items in paragraphs 3(a) and 3(c) appear to be ELINT equipment while paragraph 3(d) contains a list of equipment that could be used for both ELINT and COMINT.

GENERAL CANINE explained that when the U.S. and U.K. had agreed on the arrangements with [redacted] USCIB was officially notified that [redacted] had insisted that there be only one contact with them for both ELINT and COMINT.

THE ACTING CHAIRMAN asked if the Board has not always pointed out to the U.K. that it has no cognizance over ELINT.

GENERAL CANINE replied that this is true but that he wasn't sure that [redacted] was fully aware of this.

THE ACTING CHAIRMAN then suggested that ELINT and COMINT be separated until a decision has been made on the possible merger. He recommended that consideration be given to (a) continuation of action to forward COMINT equipment to the U.K. for delivery to [redacted]; (b) proper action for USCIB to take with respect to equipment that can be used for both ELINT and COMINT purposes; and (c) stopping delivery of pure ELINT equipment only after assurance that early receipt of the ELINT take would not be jeopardized.

GENERAL ERSKINE noted that a compromise solution to the U.S. ELINT question is being formulated. It had been recommended, he said, that responsibility for ELINT be delegated to the Secretary of Defense. If approved and issued as a National Security Council Intelligence Directive, the Department of Defense planned to issue a Directive which would assign the responsibility for implementing the ELINT Directive to the Department of the Air Force.

MR. ARMSTRONG, returning to the subject of a separate U.S. approach on the ELINT problem, expressed concern over the possibility of jeopardizing our interest in present COMINT arrangements between [redacted] and the U.K. Would it be possible, he asked, to tell the U.K. that we cannot give them an answer until we settle our ELINT problem?

GENERAL ERSKINE suggested that USCIB proceed with the COMINT portion of the arrangement and simply hold off on the ELINT equipment.

GENERAL CANINE was of the opinion that the urgency of the requirement for COMINT from [redacted] has not decreased and that the proposed transaction is a most economical method of satisfying the requirement. He urged all haste in consummating the arrangements.

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

USCIB: 29.17/19

THE ACTING CHAIRMAN invited further comment on possible delay or risk involved should ELINT and COMINT equipment be separated.

CAPTAIN TAYLOR observed that in the notification given to USCIB by the British in October there was this statement - "Detailed proposals on the provision of equipment are being taken up with U.S. ELINT authorities".

GENERAL ERSKINE said that the Department of Defense has not heard of any British proposal to discuss ELINT with U.S. authorities. He recommended recognition of the fact that USCIB does not have authority to deal in ELINT.

GENERAL CANINE asked if there might be some duplication between the list of equipment requested by the U.K. for [redacted] and the equipment which the Air Force contemplates furnishing.

GENERAL LEWIS replied that the list of equipment contained in the enclosure with USCIB 29.17/13 is much larger than the amount the Air Force had discussed previously with the [redacted]

ADMIRAL ESPE said that he favored separating the ELINT equipment from the COMINT equipment.

THE ACTING CHAIRMAN suggested that the British be asked to indicate what is, in their opinion, the intended use of the material listed.

It was agreed that the Executive Secretary would transmit a message to elicit this information having first cleared the text of such message with the members of USCIBEC.

The ensuing discussion culminated in agreement to refer the enclosure with USCIB 29.17/13 to the Executive Committee for separation of the ELINT equipment from the COMINT equipment and designation of equipment that may be used for both ELINT and COMINT purposes and to consider at the same time such views of the U.K. as may be received in response to the Executive Secretary's enquiry as to the U.K. comments on intended use. The Executive Committee would then draft a message to LSIB presenting the current U.S. position and submit it to USCIB for approval.

DECISION: (11 February 1955) USCIB directed the Executive Secretary to elicit the following information from the U.K. after having first cleared the text of such message with the members of USCIBEC: (a) which equipments listed in LSIB/28/55 the U.K. believe to be intended for ELINT purposes and those which are intended for COMINT purposes, (b) which equipments they believe may be used for both ELINT and COMINT purposes, how the U.K. believe [redacted] intends to use them and what COMINT the U.K. expect may be thus obtained.

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

USCIB: 29.17/19

USCIB also directed that the Executive Committee, after considering the views of the U.K. in response to the above message and the opinion of the technicians provided by the National Security Agency, the Department of the Navy and Department of the Air Force, prepare, for USCIB approval, a proposed message to LSIB presenting USCIB's views on the list of equipment to be provided to [redacted]