

Digest of Staff Conference, 6 October 1953

Chiefs of Offices  
and Staff Divisions

C/S

7 Oct 1953

1. DIRECTOR

a. In response to COMM's statement that mechanical failures of 5UCO's in the field (especially trouble originating in the gear box of the device) might require re-evaluation of their suitability, the Director noted that British experience with the device had proved more satisfactory: "THE MAIN TROUBLE IS THAT THE MACHINE WASN'T INVENTED HERE. WE JUST DON'T KNOW HOW TO RUN IT. LET'S GET THE KNOW-HOW FROM THE BRITISH ON THIS, AND GET GOING."

b. Commenting on TRAINING's report that an appreciable number of employees who received college and university training at NSA's expense left the Agency shortly thereafter, the Director emphasized his concern over this pattern of action: "LET'S NOT KEEP ON EDUCATING PEOPLE WHO ARE GOING TO QUIT US. WHEN I AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF GOVERNMENT MONEY TO CONTINUE THE EDUCATION OF NSA PERSONNEL, I EXPECT THIS AGENCY TO GET SOMETHING IN RETURN."

2. CHIEF OF STAFF

a. Noted that the subject "Intercept and Search Activities" would be presented by Mr. Robert E. Miller of R/D at the Monthly Staff Conference to be held on 27 October 1953.

b. Advised that since the Agency had now reached its authorized personnel strength, NSA action to secure draft deferments for Agency personnel would be reviewed by DCS/A.

3. DC/S ADMINISTRATION

Confirmed the report that MGP and HqC would retain their separate identities until just before the actual move to Fort Meade. He added that, pending the move, MGP would concentrate on the new site and HqC would devote his attention primarily to the present NSA locations, but both would effect necessary coordination with one another: "I CAN'T SEE THE NEED FOR A MERGER OF MGP AND HqC AT PRESENT."

4. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

a. Announced that the No. 2 Model of the AFSAM 806 had arrived for testing (environmental testing to be done first) and that the device could be viewed in an R/D area on the first floor of Bldg. 3 at NSS.

b. Noted that an NSA symposium on the subject "Magnetic Fundamentals" would be held as a means for bringing Agency technical personnel up to date on

recent developments in this field. He noted that symposia seemed to offer the most economical effective means for keeping NSA scientific and technical personnel abreast of advances in their fields of interest.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

Reported that investigation into the possible substitution of air-express for special courier trips between New York and Washington had indicated the substitution would be feasible from the time standpoint. In response to PROD and MACH PROC comments on the continuing security hazards implicit in such a substitution, COMSEC acknowledged that it might be unacceptable on those grounds.

6. PLANS AND POLICY

Announced that SUSLO (Col. Pulling) would be at NSA Headquarters for a week beginning 14 October, and would be available for consultation with Headquarters officials. He noted that SUSLO would return to Europe at the conclusion of his stay at the Agency.

7. HEADQUARTERS COMMANDANT

a. Reported that American University had complained that NSA personnel were occupying A. U. parking spaces in the vicinity of NSS, and had asked that the Agency take corrective action.

b. Noted that the pilot model of the machine for pulping waste paper was working very satisfactorily even under current make-shift conditions at AHS. Estimated that when the permanent worm-gear became available (in approximately 30 days) the performance would improve.

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