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23 January 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, STD

SUBJECT: Cryptographic Assistance to Quai d'Orsay

1. I presented to Mr. DeVOSJOLI on 21 January the Aide-Memoire on above subject, prepared by you, and the additional copy is returned herewith. I expressed my regrets on behalf of the Agency, which, I assured him, had done its utmost on his behalf.

2. DeVOSJOLI expressed his disappointment, which was particularly keen because of his impression gained by both himself and his French Embassy colleague in their meeting with inter-Agency technicians, that the reply would be favorable. He stated that no commitment was made, but that the eagerness of the technical representatives to find out in the greatest detail the precise nature of the Quai d'Orsay requirements created the impression of an ability and an authority to fulfill the requirements. DeVOSJOLI and his colleague were so encouraged by this meeting that they cabled Paris immediately to provide the necessary credits for the purchase.

3. I emphasized the final points in the Aide-Memoire to the effect that we could supply a limited quantity of tapes, and that, of course, he was free to see the technicians or the Director again for further discussion. DeVOSJOLI said that none of these measures would offer any real solution of the problem. The interview was entirely friendly, but DeVOSJOLI was clearly very much discouraged by our failure to meet his request.

Original Signed  
PAUL BIRDSALL  
Chief, WE

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AIDE MEMOIRE ON THE SUBJECT OF CRYPTOGRAPHIC ASSISTANCETO THEFRENCH FOREIGN OFFICE

When your requirements for communications security equipment were described to us some time ago, we examined those requirements very carefully, studying them in the light of and in connection with similar requirements of our own. We have reported to the Director of Central Intelligence on our findings and he has asked that they be given to you.

First, we examined the crypto-equipment requirements of various U.S. Agencies in order to ascertain the similarity between their requirements and yours, and the means by which those requirements are to be met. Then we examined the development and production schedules to discover in what way and when the requirements would be met. We asked these Agencies to study carefully what changes might be made in the production schedules of equipment in production, to see if some equipments destined for them could be diverted to meet requirements of the French Foreign Office.

Unfortunately, in those cases where equipments might be suitable for your needs, we have found that commitments to meet requirements are quite firm, and that it does not now appear that equipments can be diverted to meet your requirements in less than 30 to 36 months, and we cannot now give you any assurance

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even of this. Since new equipments which might meet your requirements will not be available for quite some time, we looked at older equipments still in use to see if any of these equipments could be made available. Here again we found that, although in most cases the equipments were old, all are in use. Furthermore, there is an actual need for additional equipments of this type which even we ourselves do not have. These are the results of our earnest study of ways and means to assist you and, unhappily, it appears that they are of a negative character.

In exploring the problem, various U.S. Agencies have suggested that you might wish to examine commercial sources, the existence of which you may know, but in order to make this certain, we feel it advisable to mention them.

For example, there is the firm of Dr. Edgar Gretner, Elektromechnik und Licht-technik, Zurich, Switzerland. Although we are not familiar with the product of this firm, we think it might merit your investigation if you are not already acquainted with it.

We wonder if you have explored the possibility of using one-time tapes - a system which NATO uses, and which has been found generally satisfactory. If you decide to use tapes, you will need not only the tapes themselves, but also the "mixing" mechanism to permit their use with teletype equipment,

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As a source for this mechanism, you might consider the Norwegian Post and Telegraph, which is now manufacturing equipment for the SHAPE Signal Division. We also understand that a firm known as Atheneum Stiftung, of Frankfurt, Germany, has developed a similar mechanism.

As for the production of tapes themselves, we understand that Mr. Boris Hagelin of the firm Crypto A. G. in Zug, Switzerland, is taking orders for a machine to produce one-time tapes. Also, the Atheneum Stiftung is known to manufacture a similar machine. Finally, although the U.S. is unable to furnish you with either the "mixing" mechanism or with a tape-making machine, we can, if you so desire, supply you with a limited quantity of tapes.

If you have any technical questions with regard to the above suggestion, we will be glad to arrange another meeting for you with our experts in this field who can fill in the details. You are, of course, at liberty to discuss this question with the Director of Central Intelligence, if you so desire.

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