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CSGAS-80

19 September 1949

SUBJECT: Exposure of SIGABA to Viewing by British Personnel

1. In the early days of the war, when the SIGABA was first being issued, arrangements were made by the U. S. Navy for its occasional issue to British vessels. Instructions were that in each such case the machine would be accompanied by a special liaison party which would be responsible for the safeguarding and use of the equipment and would insure its being protected at all times from British viewing. This was in accordance with joint agreement regarding issue of the equipment.

2. In one instance, the case of the British ship ENGADINE (?) the equipment was issued but through some oversight was not accompanied by an American liaison party. This was discovered about 2 weeks later, when the equipment was turned in by the Captain of the ENGADINE as un-serviceable. It developed that the machine had been plugged into an improper power source and consequently made un-serviceable. It was only then realized that the SIGABA had been in the hands of British personnel for that entire period.

3. The above information was provided verbally to me by Commander Hargreaves of Op 20 Y. It was later verified by Captain Gerin.

A. Sinkov

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Chief, Security Division

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