

From the Friedman papers -  
Harb & RLV sent from Mitchell's  
ofc. 12 Jun 76

JOINT SECURITY CONTROL

WASHINGTON, D. C.

By authority of

Date

Mar 3 1943

March 3, 1943.

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF:

Subject: Security of Signal Communications.

1. Considerable evidence has been amassed in the past 10 days indicating that State Department codes have certainly been jeopardized. Equally strong evidence indicates the probability that military intelligence codes, at least those in effect prior to March 1, have been compromised. It is not improbable that the codes and ciphers now being used by theater commanders have likewise been compromised.

2. The State Department has been apprized of the situation insofar as their code is concerned. What action will be taken by the State Department in regard to their own codes apparently has not yet been determined. The military attache codes were changed March 1, and this will give us a temporary measure of security.

3. The situation insofar as commanders of active theaters is concerned is sufficiently serious to warrant immediate and radical action. In the past the War Department for a variety of reasons, none of which are either sound or defensible, has stuck to the lazy man's way of having one code with a wide distribution in use, with the result that if the code is compromised in one place, then every message from any place in the world runs the risk of being intercepted and read. It is vital that we now initiate a system which will provide lateral communication between theater commanders and at the same time we have vertical systems of communication in different codes between theater commanders and Washington so that if a code be compromised in one theater it will not affect operations in another. This system, coupled with a frequent change in codes and ciphers, should afford a reasonable degree of security.

4. It is recommended that:

a. Immediate steps be taken to provide six separate and distinct systems of codes and ciphers; these six systems to be put in effect at the earliest possible date as follows:

- (1) Between Washington and London
- (2) A different system between Washington and North Africa
- (3) Another system between Washington and the Middle East
- (4) Another system between Washington and the Southwest Pacific
- (5) A still different system between Washington and Chungking
- (6) A still different system to be used only in case of necessity laterally between theater commanders; this system for the time being to be common to all theaters.

b. The foregoing is merely the first step, which must be supplemented by further application of the same principles just as soon as codes and ciphers can be prepared and adequate steps taken in the War Department Classified Message Center to handle the additional codes.

c. Upon approval of the foregoing, this paper be returned to Security Control for implementation.

*G. V. Strong*  
 GEO. V. STRONG,  
 Major General,  
 Joint Security Control.

APPROVED  
 By order of the Secretary of War  
 JOSEPH T. McNARNEY  
 Deputy Chief of Staff

*O. L. Nelson*  
 By O. L. NELSON  
 Col. G.S.C., Asst. Sec. W.D.G.A.  
 Col. G.S.C., Asst. Sec. W.D.G.A.

MAR 8 - 1943

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NOTED-DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF *OLM*