

February 12, 1943

JMA message number 53 from Japanese Military Attache at Helsinki to Tokyo, dated January 26, 1943, gives a series of 50 mixed alphabets. Although we do not have all the parts which were sent in this series, we do have enough to know that there are 50 alphabets in all, and we have recovered the first portion of part 1, which is translated as follows:

American "STRIP" cipher letters (42-1)
(26 letters between the spell indicators).
1st ((NYFSJWAXQGTMIERLVBHPDZOUKC)) —
2nd ((WBYOGQIDVLNCTJSFZPAXKHREUM))
.
.
etc.

*Japan 27
Jan 28*

Similarly, we have recovered some alphabets in two series given in Helsinki messages numbers 54^a and 55^b. Messages bearing the serial numbers between 48 and 52 are absent from our files, and since one or more of these may contain similar material, a special urgent effort is being made to obtain them through another source.

^aStrips given in #54 correspond to 44-1.

^bStrip System referred to in this message has not yet been located.

Japanese Military Attache Helsinki to Tokio.

Serial No. 33 dated 12/1/43

2141. I United States cipher.

M-209
FC

(1) Finland is breaking the American machine cipher (STRIGE* CIPHER); up till the 10th of January, this office had received the following keys:- 10-1, 10-3 (few groups corrupt) 4-1, 7-1, 18-1.

1962. (2) A cipher key which had been used at Helsinki was used a month later at Moscow and then at Ankara. One which had been used at Stockholm was afterwards used at Berne and then at Madrid. In fact, as the same key may be used in rotation, if any given key has once been broken, it has sometimes proved useful again at a later date.

1963. (3) (Few groups corrupt) and special secret agents.

(4) The first clue which enabled the Finns to break this cipher was an enquiry from (group) about a BERNE situation report which was sent to Helsinki in an unexpected key.

(5) Please inform me (group) the situation regarding work in Japan, and if you would like the keys which are broken to be sent to you from this office. I should like Colonel HAYASHI to pay a visit here.

M-209

(6) An engineer of a Swedish cipher firm has been for two years on a tour of all America, and has not yet returned; there is therefore a possibility that machine ciphers in the Swedish style may in the future appear among American ciphers.

1964. II Turkish telegraphic ciphers.

(1) They are based on a very short subtractor and are therefore easy to solve, given a knowledge of the language. In fact, as the subtractor has the same figure for every three letters the range of figures is limited.

(2) The Finns know from correspondence between Vichy and Ankara, what the situation in Vichy is like, and regard it in a serious light.

*Sic: Presumably "Strip"