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29 January 1954

NSA (PROD) COMMENTS

1. It is our opinion that given the following reservations the UK proposal as amended is acceptable:

a. Because of the UK requirement for "final" agreement on minor aspects of the Minimum Standards paper at a meeting of the UK and US delegates to be held in London, the full comments of the UK on this paper must be examined in advance in order to ascertain whether such an agreement can be anticipated. If it appears that there are problems of serious magnitude involved it may prove impossible to accept the requirement.

b. Certain changes of a minor nature must be made in the UK proposal. We believe these changes will be accepted by Tiltman.

2. The above mentioned changes are:

Aide-Memoire - proposed para 2

Change "significant" to "classified".

- proposed para 5

Retain U.S. version.

Brief for Delegates - proposed para 2d

Change UK last sentence to read "The US and UK Delegations will try to secure French agreement to the prepared list of Dangerous Practices. French recommendations for modifications, especially amplification, will be encouraged and considered on their own merits. ~~The Delegations are reminded that~~ decisions on these points must necessarily be unanimous."

~~TOP SECRET~~

- proposed deletion of subparas (e) through (h)

This is acceptable with the inclusion of the proposed new para (f) submitted by Tiltman.

- proposed new para (e)

Delete second sentence.

- proposed new para (f)

In the first sentence change "delegates" to "delegations".

In the second sentence move clause "the final text-----London" to follow immediately after the words "suitable version".

In the third sentence, strike all after "probability" and replace



- proposed amendment to para 3(a)(2)

Perfectly acceptable.

PL 86-36/50 USC 3605
EO 3.3(h)(2)

- proposed para 4(b)

Propose following version:

"If the French ask pointblank questions about national cipher systems of the US or UK, a frank answer should, wherever permissible, be given. If the reply to such a question should involve revelation of matter not approved by the US and UK for release, the answer should simply be that each country (UK and US) has a national security policy which prohibits revelation of such information except as explicitly approved."

3. In addition to the proposed UK changes it is strongly recommended that para 2(1) of the Brief for Delegates be deleted.

4. In addition it is recommended that both commas in the last sentence of para 4(a) of the Brief for Delegates be deleted.