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SPSIS-

12 October 1944

MEMORANDUM for Commander Reed

Subject: Standardization of Security Practices

On 9 October 1944, a message was received from Colonel Bicher, SIS officer, ETO, forwarding information received from SHAETF. A paraphrase follows:

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BROUGHT TO YOUR ATTENTION ARE SECURITY PRECAUTIONS IN COMBINED NAVAL HEADQUARTERS ANCXF AT ST. GERMAIN. IN COMBINED BRITISH AMERICAN CODE ROOM CSP 889 (SIGABA) LOCATED IN ONE CORNER TWO TAG-CABINETS PROVIDE PROTECTION FROM VIEW. THERE IS NO DOOR, SIGABA IS UNCOVERED AND AVAILABLE FOR VIEW WHENEVER THE ONE US NAVAL OFFICER ON EACH WATCH HAS OCCASION TO LEAVE THE ROOM. BASKETS AND ROTORS IN REGULAR VIEW. IN CABINETS ARE STORED SPARE PARTS, KITS TAPE, AND DOCUMENTS. MATTER HAS BEEN DISCUSSED WITH SECURITY OFFICER, ANCXF WHO STATES HE HAS NO INSTRUCTIONS FROM HIGHER HEADQUARTERS OTHER THAN AS WRITTEN IN BASIC CRYPTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTS LEAVING HIM TO INTERPRET POLICY STATEMENTS CONTAINED THEREIN. SAME INTERPRETATION OF SECURITY POLICY MAY EXIST IN OTHER NAVAL INSTALLATIONS. SPECIFIC DIRECTIVES ON ALL MATTERS OF SECURITY HAVE BEEN ISSUED BY THIS OFFICE AND INSPECTIONS MADE TO INSURE COMPLIANCE WITH DIRECTIVES BY ARMY PERSONNEL. SUGGEST YOU CONTACT NAVY WASHINGTON TO HAVE THE HIGHEST NAVAL HEADQUARTERS IN THIS THEATRE CONFER WITH THIS OFFICE SO THAT SECURITY PRACTICES MAY BE STANDARDIZED.

2. It is believed that the best interests of all concerned would be served if the Army and Navy followed the same security practices in connection with the handling of SIGABA.

3. Attached hereto is Adjutant General's letter outlining the policy to be followed by the U.S. Army personnel in the handling of SIGABA. It recommended that a similar policy be adopted and issued by the Navy.

W. PRESTON CORDERMAN
Colonel, Signal Corps
Commanding

Declassified and approved for release by NSA on 08-27-2014 pursuant to E.O. 13526

Incl AG ltr 413.51 (1 Jul 44) OB-S-B-M

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