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CSGAS-33

21 September 1949

SUBJECT: Preliminary Discussions Concerning The British Request for (1) Complete Interchange of Cryptographic Development Programs or (2) Release to the British of the Principles of the SIGABA

1. The request was addressed by the British Joint Chiefs of Staff to the U. S. Joint Chiefs of Staff and came through the JCEC to the Joint Security and Cryptographic Panel. Discussions were held by that panel on three successive days in an attempt to arrive at an agreed-upon reply. The Army members took the stand that the first part of the proposal was completely unacceptable but that the second part, the giving to the British of the cryptographic principles of the SIGABA, should be accepted. The Navy and Air Force members concurred. However, the Navy members stated flatly that Admiral Stone would never approve of acceptance of the second British request since he had expressed strong disapproval on several previous occasions. The Army Security Agency members also mentioned that it was their belief that General Clarke would not approve the request either.

2. At this point, on the third day of discussion, the Chairman, Dr. Sinkov called into the discussions, Colonel Conrad, Army Coordinator of the JCEC to get his advice on what action should be taken. Colonel Conrad concurred in the opinion expressed by the members of the JSC that the problem would have to be eventually decided in AFSA and that the proper thing to do was to recommend to the JCEC that the problem be referred to AFSA.

3. A draft paper was prepared which indicated the panel's approval of the second portion of the British request but which recommended that JCEC forward the request without action to AFSA for their decision.

4. That afternoon several of the JSC panel members including the two Army Security Agency members attended a conference in Admiral Stone's office on another subject. (Security for the North Atlantic Pact nations). At the close of that conference one of the Navy members of the panel showed Admiral Stone the rough draft of the paper referred to in paragraph 3 above. Admiral Stone agreed that the subject was an AFSA matter but he would not go along with the idea of the paper to JCEC containing the statement of the panel's approval of the British request. Therefore, the paper from the panel as delivered to JCEC merely mentioned that the JSC had been able to reach no decision and recommended that the entire matter be forwarded to AFSA.

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CSGAS-83

21 September 1949

SUBJECT: Preliminary Discussions Concerning The British Request
for (1) Complete Interchange of Cryptographic Development
Programs or (2) Release to the British of the Principles
of the SIGABA (Continued)

5. So far as we have been able to determine there is no copy
in existence of the draft paper of the Panel, nor were minutes kept
of the discussions held. However, to the best of our recollection as
Army Security Agency members of the panel, the above is a true and
complete statement of events.

/s/ A. SINKOV
Chief, Security Division

/s/ FRANK C. AUSTIN
Chief, Methods Branch

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