

~~SECRET~~ARLINGTON HALL STATION
MESSAGE CENTER

(47)

INCOMING MESSAGEDate Filed MAY 21, 1943
Time Filed 1345ZFROM: MI AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO: WILID WAS-INGTON
NR: 4834

RECORDS MAINTAINED AT BERKELEY STREET DO NOT INCLUDE FIGURES FOR TOTAL TRAFFIC AND I DID NOT ASK THEM TO GO TO GEOGRAPHICAL SECTIONS AND ADD UP ALL FIGURES, BUT THEY GIVE "THOUSANDS" OF MESSAGES PER DAY. THEIR SERIAL NUMBER OF CIRCULATED DIPLOMATIC ITEMS EXCEEDED ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DAILY IN 1942. DO NOT HAVE PRESENT RANGE OF NUMBER (TO STRONG FOR CLARET AND CORDIERMAN FROM MCCORMACK) BUT MONTHLY AVERAGE HAS BEEN RUNNING AT FROM EIGHT HUNDRED TO ONE THOUSAND. GENERALLY SPEAKING I WOULD SAY THAT THEIR POLICY OF NOT TO DISTRIBUTE IS SAME AS ARLINGTONS, THE DIFFERENCE IN NUMBERS DISTRIBUTED BEING ACCOUNTED FOR BY FACT ARLINGTON COVERS LOW FIELD AND THAT HERE THEY HAVE BEEN GOING FOR MUCH LONGER AND HAVE LEARNED OVER PERIOD OF TIME WHAT IS NOT INFORMATION AND WHAT IS NOT; AND THEY ALSO HAVE HAD MUCH MORE GUIDANCE AS TO WHAT TO PUT THROUGH AND WHAT TO DISCARD THAN ARLINGTON GETS FROM ITS DISTRIBUTERS, MAINLY IN VIEW OF SHORT TIME THAT OPERATION HAS BEEN GOING ON PRESENT SCALE. BASIC PRINCIPLE IS SAME HOWEVER, NAMELY, TO DISTRIBUTE EVERYTHING THAT MIGHT HAVE ANY INTELLIGENCE VALUE, HOWEVER SMALL. GREAT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN OPERATION AND BERKELEY STREET IS THAT IT IS ESSENTIALLY AN INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATION WITH IMPORTANT OPERATIONAL

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FUNCTIONS WHEREAS BERKLEY STREET IS PRODUCTION ORGANIZATION
 LINE ARRINGTON. HOWEVER, THEY DO SEEM TO HAVE THE INTELL-
 IGENCE SIDE OF THEIR OPERATION, FUNCTIONING AS AID TO CRYPT
 PEOPLE, VERY WELL SET UP. IT CENTERS IN THE DISTRIBUTION
AND REFERENCE SECTION, HEADED BY GENERAL SMITH, A YOUNGISH
LOOKING MAN WHO SEVERAL YEARS HAS BEEN IN THIS WORK SINCE
 1917. HIS ASSISTANT IS ORE JENKINS, PROFESSOR OF MEDIEVAL
 AND MODERN GREEK AT CAMBRIDGE, WHO HAS BEEN IN IT SINCE WAR
 STARTED. THEY HAVE THREE GIRLS IN THEORY BUT TWO IN ACTUALITY,
 ONE OF WHOSE HAS BEEN FOURTEEN YEARS AT BERKLEY STREET AND
 SIX YEARS IN THIS STATION. THE OTHER HAS BEEN IN THE SECTION
 FOR FIVE YEARS. THESE PEOPLE ALL IN EFFECT A REFERENCE
 BUREAU FOR CRYPT PEOPLE, AND IN ADDITION THEY DETERMINE WHAT
 SHALL BE CIRCULATED AND TO WHO IT SHALL GO IN CASES OF DOUBT,
 AND THEY SUPERVISE MECHANICAL OPERATION OF GETTING IT OUT.
 NOTHING GOES OUT BY TELETYPE OTHER THAN ESSENTIAL MATERIAL
 FOR CHIEF, THE FOUR TELETYPE CONNECTIONS BEING WITH B², CHIEFS
 OFFICE AND INTERCEPT STATIONS AT DENMARK HILL AND SANDRIDGE.
 GENERAL SMITH'S SECTION HAS ONE SIMPLE FILING SYSTEM IMAGIN-
 ABLE. MATERIAL IS SIMPLY LAID IN FOLDERS IN ORDER NUMBER

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ORDER, UNBOUND. THERE ARE THREE FILES - ONE IS MASTER FILE AND A OTHER IS SPARE FILE, BOTH IN STRAIGHT SERIAL NUMBER ORDER. THE THIRD AND IMPORTANT FILE IS CALLED "SUBJECT AND COUNTRY" BUT IN FACT IT IS ONLY COUNTRY AND NOT SUBJECT, SINCE ALL MATERIAL BELONGING ON ANY PARTICULAR COUNTRY IS LAID IN A FOLDER IN ORDER OF DATES AND THERE IS NO SUBDIVISION OF COUNTRY FILES BY SUBJECTS. MOST STARTLING FACT ABOUT THIS SECTION IS THAT IT RECEIVES DAILY, SHOWS TO GEOGRAPHICAL SECTIONS WHERE INTERESTING TO THEM AND THEN PUTS IN ITS FILES ALL INCOMING AND OUTGOING COMMUNICATIONS OF FOREIGN OFFICE, DOMINIONS OFFICE, COLONIAL OFFICE AND INDIA OFFICE, AND ALL BUT PURELY OPERATIONAL MATERIAL OF THE WHITE SERVICE MINISTERS. FROM LATER

AS Nr 4154Date Completed MAY 22, 1943Time Completed 1645Z

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