

Serial: N 1018

20 MAR 1961

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Dear Mr. Loehnis,

In our letter of 23 September 1960, Serial #3674, it was stated that the National Security Agency hoped to be ready for US/UK discussions on the subject of a comprehensive COMSEC release policy in January or February. Our detailed study of your proposal now has led us to the conclusion that it would be undesirable to establish a UKUSA policy for the release of COMSEC information or assistance. It is our feeling that each COMSEC release, even within NATO, should be approached on an individual basis, as we have done in the past. Each release must, of course, be fully coordinated between the US and UK from a COMINT as well as a COMSEC standpoint.

Despite our feeling that each COMSEC release presents a special problem, it is undoubtedly desirable to review the procedure followed by the US and the UK when either desires to make such a release. We agree with some of the proposals that you have made for a procedure and have some additions of our own to present. The occasions of your visit and Mr. Stannard's visit this spring would provide excellent opportunities for a discussion of release procedures.

Sincerely,

L. H. FROST
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Vice Admiral, USN
Director

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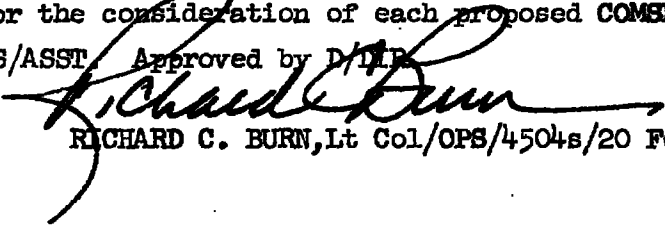
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M/R: In May 1960, the Director, GCHQ forwarded to the Director, NSA a proposed COMSEC release policy. This policy had been considered at a joint mid-April meeting of LSIB and LCSB. The comments of the Director, NSA, on this proposal were requested in "due course."

A committee of NSA personnel from CSEC, R&D, PROD and OPS under the Chairmanship of the S/ASST to the Director was constituted to consider the problem. In September 1960, the Director, GCHQ was informed that NSA would be ready for formal US/UK discussion in January or February. Further study of the LSIB/LCSB proposal since Sept has led to the conclusion that it would be unwise to establish a comprehensive COMSEC release policy. In lieu of that, it is considered that there should be adopted a regular UKUSA procedure for the consideration of each proposed COMSEC release.

Coordinated with S/ASST. Approved by D/DIR


RICHARD C. BURN, Lt Col/OPS/4504s/20 Feb 61/ej