

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~*Office Memorandum* • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : S/ASST

DATE: 13 July 1953

FROM : P/P

SUBJECT: NSC COMSEC Directive No. 1

1. The inclosures were received from you with a request for my comments on certain portions of the draft Directive, as amended by the Lay committee.

2. My comments were coordinated with C/SEC on 10 July 1953, and those comments then were considered by representatives of C/SEC, H/D, and P/P in the preparation of a draft memorandum to NSC. The draft memorandum was discussed on that date in the meeting attended by you, C/SEC and his representatives, and a representative of this division.

3. The inclosures are returned for your file. The memorandum to NSC will be forwarded to you separately in final form.

*Jesse O. Gregory*  
JESSE O. GREGORY  
Colonel, USAF  
Acting Chief

2 Incls:

Draft NSC COMSEC Directive No. 1  
NSC Memo, 23 June 53, with incl.

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COMMENTS ON DRAFT PROPOSED NSC DIRECTIVE ON COMSEC, DATED 23 JUNE

## A. Important items:

1. Page 6 paragraph 2a. The Secretary of Defense is designated, in this version, as Executive Agent of USCSB rather than of the Government. This suggests an idea for a way out of much of our difficulties. Under the set up as proposed, SECDEF is both above and below the Board. He executes their policies, and presumably if he doesn't like them, he dons his Special Committee hat and changes them. It is suggested that serious consideration be given to designating the Director, NSA as Executive Agent for the Board in COMSEC matters. In actuality he will be anyhow. He could still perform his functions, with respect to the Military Departments, under the immediate direction of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

2. Page 7 paragraph (1) (a), (1) (b), page 11 paragraph (3). Instead of repeating "subject to review by the Board in event of disagreement", a phrase which appears somewhat undiplomatic, suggest an additional paragraph be added on page 13 as paragraph 3e which reads somewhat as follows:

"In any instance where exception is taken to an action or decision of the Director, NSA, the Secretary of a department or the Head or Director of an agency may submit the matter to the Board for review".

3. Page 7 paragraph (1) (a) and (1) (b). This version completely deletes two of the most important functions of the Director, NSA, in the COMSEC field - those of prescribing the cryptoprinciples incorporated or to be incorporated and of prescribing the cryptosecurity rules, regulations and instructions for the operation and use of cryptosystems. It is vital to a successful COMSEC charter that there be a centralized authority for determining these matters and for approving such matters submitted by other Departments and Agencies. Imagine the Board attempting to settle the AFSAM 7 - AFSAM 47 controversy, the security of AJAX, or the AFSAM 9 - CSP 2308 problem on the basis of a technical consideration of the cryptoprinciples.

4. Page 9 paragraph (f). Under the wording as given, the Board could insist on considering every little program for production and procurement. Suggest a rewording as follows:

(f) "Obtain from the departments and agencies their requirements for crypto-equipments and materials, and, in consonance with policies of the Board, establish integrated programs for the production and procurement thereof."

5. Page 9 paragraph (g). Suggest a complete rewrite of this paragraph, as follows:

"Establish and conduct a COMSEC research and development program, delegating such research and development projects as may be more effectively so performed to other departments and agencies; review and approve all cryptosecurity research and development programs established or to be established by other departments and agencies; integrate the programs established by other departments and agencies and those conducted by NSA into an overall research and development program designed to achieve a satisfactory state of cryptosecurity for the departments and agencies of the government. Subject to prior approval by the Director, NSA, other departments and agencies may establish and pursue such research and development as may be necessary to support their own cryptosecurity activities."

6. Page 10 paragraph (h). Compatibility of crypto-equipments and materials among themselves must obviously exist or they won't operate. What is meant here is standardization of materials. The word "production" should also be added, in the first sentence, after the word procurement.

7. The complete function of providing the actual cryptomaterials, as given in paragraph (h) page 6 of the draft charter dated 3 March, 1953 has been deleted. Consider this important function should be spelled out, either as an additional sentence in front of the present paragraph (i) on page 10, or preferably as a new paragraph (5) on page 11 "Production and Procurement". With respect to page 10

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paragraph (1), the Comptroller, NSA should comment on the desirability of NSA furnishing services and cryptomaterials to the other departments and agencies only on a reimbursable basis. Such a procedure will certainly involve lots of red tape. The question of how available for re-use is money obtained as reimbursement to NSA for services and materials provided is one for the Comptroller to consider.

B. Minor items:

1. Page 1 line 1. Why was Section 211 of the National Security Act of 1947 deleted? Believe it appears in NSCID No. 9.
2. Page 4 paragraph (2) line 8. Suggest the word "study" be changed to "examine".
3. Page 5 paragraph (7) is a newly added paragraph which spells out the Board's control over the SECDEF. Again it would be more appropriate for DIRECTOR, NSA to be the Executive Agent.
4. Page 6 line 3 parenthetical expression. In view of the inclusion of the Secretary of the Treasury and the Chairman, AEC on page 1 of the proposed charter, should they also be included in the parentheses?
5. Page 8 paragraph (d). What is the authority granted the Director of Central Intelligence under NSCID No. 5?
6. Page 9 paragraph e. Should NSA attempt to achieve any reviewing authority for cryptosecurity training conducted by departments and agencies?

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