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Serial: 249

SUBJECT: Report of Demonstration of an Invention

TO: DIRNSA

FROM: CHNSAEUR

DATE: 23 Oct 54

1. Attached is a report prepared by Mr. Joseph E. Richard.
2. The suggestion made in paragraph 7 of Mr. Richard's report will be used wherever practicable in the handling of future such cases.

/s/ HARRY L. CLARK
Chief

Incl:
a/s (in dup)

Declassified and approved for release by NSA on 06-03-2014 pursuant to E.O. 13526

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22 October 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. CLARK AND LT. COL. HORTON

SUBJECT: Visit to SIGUSAREUR COMZ, Orleans, at the Request of Col. March to Witness the Demonstration of an Invention of a French Civilian who Works for the French Police Telegraph Office

1. Arrived in Orleans SIGUSAREUR Office at 1330 hours 20 October. Was informed by the American civilian interpreter handling the contact with the French inventor that the inventor had stated some hitch had developed in the operation of the machine and he would be unable to demonstrate it in operation but would bring in a circuit diagram.
2. Further discussion developed the fact that no one in the signal office had as yet done more than talk with the man and that in his conversations he had avoided giving them any precise information about the operation of his invention.
3. At 1430 hours the man arrived with diagrams and parts of his machine. The ensuing discussion soon showed that it was in no sense a cipher device. He had reversed the action of a telegraph key and added a circuit breaker to it so that it sent nothing when depressed and a series of dots when up. On the receive end he had a buzzer continuously producing a noise except when a dot was received. The result was long or short buzzes in accordance with the morse keyed on the sending key, except that an extra dash length buzz would be present for every pause between letters. As these extra buzzes would be difficult to distinguish from regular information conveying dash buzzes, it is doubtful if any message, plain text or otherwise, sent over the device would be intelligible at the receiving end.
4. Col. March was not present and his policies for dealing with the French were unknown to the NSAEUR representative so the inventor was told that the Colonel would give him an answer concerning the device within a week.
5. The inventor wished to leave his diagrams and parts and since the SIGUSAREUR Office people expressed a wish to examine them further (it was expected that Col. March would also wish to look at them) they were left after the interpreter had made it clear to the inventor that no obligation or responsibility on the part of the USA was involved.
6. A short memo was left for Col. March suggesting reasons he might use in turning the inventor down politely without disturbing USA-French relations.
7. It is suggested that in the future when telegraphic requests for a visit by an NSAEUR or ASAE expert for the purpose of evaluating an

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inventor's cipher device are received that the requesting office be asked to conduct as complete a preliminary investigation as possible concerning the components and mode of operation of the invention and forward a detailed written report of this preliminary investigation before the visit is approved. If this is done, the requesting office may find that they have underestimated their own analytical resources and that they are after all fully capable of determining the value of the invention submitted to them, and if a visit by an expert is necessary he will be better prepared for it by the information from the preliminary report.

/s/ JOSEPH E. RICHARD
NSAEUR