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COPY

MEMO: Cryptographic Material Issued to Foreign Nations.

TO: Mr. Page  
Mr. Austin

1. Additional information regarding issuance of cryptographic material to foreign nations has been found. This information concerns only Converter M-228 and Alphabet strips.

2. The accountability records for all SIGCUM units (over 3,000) have been examined. At the present date the British hold eighteen (18) units. These are Register Nos.:

200, 228, 244, 261, 421, 424, 425, 450, 463, 498, 507,

524, 2262, 2271, 2999, 3004, 3017, 3041.

3. It is not clear from the correspondence or the accountability records just when the British first began to use, or were issued, SIGCUM. It appears probable that at first some SIGCUM units were transferred from the Theater Signal Officer to the British with accountability for those units being retained by the Theater Signal Officer.

a. A Memo, dated 19 May 1944, argues for a change in policy and recommends changing the existing policy of withholding from the British all information concerning SIGCUM.

b. A letter, dated 2 February 1944, to G-2, requests approval for employment of M-228 by the "British Fleet Radio Unit Colombo, Ceylon". This request was approved but no information was found to show where or how the British were given any SIGCUM units.

c. AS-82 has a record to show that SIGCUM system SIGLBI was issued 23 August 1944 "To British Forces". No indication as to whether this was for combined operation or not.

d. Correspondence read sometime ago (the date and file were not noted down at that time) concerned British sending Secret traffic of SIGCUM by radio. It is believed that this was in the South Pacific and the date somewhere between 1945-1947.

4. The accountability records here for SIGCUM show that the British signed for the 13 units mentioned above on 24 April 1947. There is also the statement this material was transferred to the British "In accordance with SIGINFO-294". SIGINFO-294 is a reprint of War Department letter, 29 August 1944, subject: Policy Regarding Accountability of Registered Documents, and concerns provisions for transferring registered cryptographic material to any Allied Nation.

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a. Associated correspondence with these accountability records now that the British received some, or all, of the 18 units mentioned above, about the date 16 December 1946. However, due to clearing up of a question in register numbers the receipt of transfer was not signed by the British until 24 April 1947. It seems as if there were two units bearing the same register number: 244. No. 244 had previously been certified as destroyed by CMU here at ASA. However, it was also certified that the unit in London also bore that number.

b. There is the additional fact that two of the above units, numbers 498 and 2999 were still listed as accountable by holder number 802 in their report dated 16 October 1946. The other units mentioned above show they were issued from here in 1943 & 1944 but do not show the British received them until 1946. (The individual quarterly reports were not searched as that would have taken considerable time).

5. None of the records or correspondence show that SIGCUM was issued to anyone else except the British, although a X-ref sheet, 1 Jan 1945, mentions the possibility of agreeing to issue SIGCUM to the Canadians.

6. Information on Alphabet Strip is incomplete. Only the systems issued from here can be found. There is no record of the systems issued by the individual Theater Signal Officers. The different systems found so far are:

a. FRENCH:- System 465 (SIGAMO?). Production began 12 December 1944 and stopped 18 December 1945. 17 different editions produced.

b. FRENCH-ENGLISH:- System 497 (SIGNGS). Produced 6 September 1943. 2 editions.

c. RUSSIA:- System 204 (SIGDBI). 22 January 1943. 13 editions of Reg. Nos. 6-18. Record not complete but do show Russians apparently received Reg. Nos. (DBI-1) 6, 8-11, 13-14, 107. Of DBI-5, 101-104, 106-107. Of DBI-6, 6, 8-12, 14, 104. Also SIGDNU-2, Nos. 9 & 10. Notation on cards state these were transferred to the Russians in 1943 by General Bradley. Additional notation on cards state "Removed from accountability 26 January 1944".

d. No information could be found as to the number of strip boards issued.

7. It was learned that the first translation of SIGUHR for the Russians had the section on channel elimination deleted. It was also found that the other system made up in 1945-1946 which was not given to the Russians but destroyed according to Col. Cook, did include channel elimination. This translation was SIGWHUT-1, a copy of which is included.

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8. In summary there were 18 units of SICCOM and 32 editions of 5 different alphabet strip systems issued to other countries.

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