

MEMO: Additional information regarding Cryptographic material issued to Foreign Nations.

1/ SIGCUM

A. The present records show that the British now have 18 units of SIGCUM. This is an accountability record of 24 April 1947.

b. The original provisions governing issuance of SIGCUM to the British is an AG letter of 2 August 1944 and of 24 June 1944. These two letters state:

"2. The War Department has authorized the distribution of the Converter M-228 to American Commanders who may in turn issue it to British Commanders for use on wire lines used jointly by United States and British forces in combined operations. ..." (24 June 1944)

"In all other respects the converter will be viewed as a United States Army cryptographic device issue to British units on a basis similar to that used in the issue of the equipment to United States Army units." (2 August 1944)

c. From that time on the Theater Signal Officer issued to the British M-228 units with accountability being kept in the TSO records. At the end of the war these units were all recalled and the 18 units in a above officialy transferred to the British. (Whether the recall was physical or merely a transfer on paper isn't known.)

d. It might be possible by going through the records of MTO, ETO, etc., to determine how many units the British had prior to 1947. Major Haley says that in MTO he issued the British 3 SIGCUM units. I know the British had 2 units, at least, in the Pacific but can not find out whether these came from ETO or from SWPA.

2. STRIPS AND STRIP BOARDS

a. 5 different strip systems consisting of 32 different editions can be accounted for from this Agency. There are probably a few other systems which were made up which cannot be identified.

b. Many systems were made up in bulk and shipped to the TSO's for use and distribution as they saw fit. There is no information on these, without going through the TSO's records, as to which ones, if any, were distributed to different nations.

~~SECRET~~

-2-

c. There is no way of determining the number of strip boards distributed either to U.S Army units or to foreign nations. The Navy device CSP 845 for some time was accounted for as a registered document. The M-138 was accounted for only as an item of property. Later all of the devices, CSP 845, M-138 & SIGWOWO were accounted for as items of property. Some months ago all of the records on these devices were destroyed. At the present time it is possible only to tell how many boards are in present use.

3. M-209

The M-209 is similar to the strip board. It is possible to tell how many units were produced and how many units are still in existence. There are no records now available to tell what units were issued to whom.

4. In regard to the question raised concerning the mention of correspondence in para. 3c of the first memo, this was a telegram about sending SECRET traffic over SIGCUM. The basic correspondence had been in 8 Feb 1945 when SIGCUM had been issued to the British Fleet Radio unit in Ceylon in order to send traffic from Colombo to Guam. This was the only means of transmission between these two places. The traffic was supposed to be SECRET and the telegrams gave official approval to use SIGCUM for such traffic over radio.

~~SECRET~~