

USCIB: 29.2/1

3 May 1954

~~TOP SECRET~~MEMORANDUM FOR THE MEMBERS OF USCIB:

Subject: Release of AFSAM-7 to NATO Nations.

1. The enclosure is forwarded for consideration by vote sheet action.
2. It is requested that your views on the recommendation contained in paragraph 6 of the enclosure be indicated on the attached vote sheet and returned to this office by 1700, 13 May 1954.



RUFUS L. TAYLOR  
Captain, U. S. Navy  
Executive Secretary, USCIB

## Enclosure

NSA Serial 000206-S dtd 26 Apr 1954,  
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NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

Serial: 000206-S  
26 Apr 54

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE MEMBERS OF USCIB

SUBJECT: Release of AFSAM-7 to NATO Nations

1. On 23 March 1954, the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff gave final approval to the report of the 1953 UK-US Communications Security Conference. By this action, proposals previously approved by the U.S. for offering the cipher machine AFSAM-7 to NATO as a replacement for the CCM became a matter of combined UK-US agreement. The plan, in brief, calls for the introduction of the ADONIS crypto-principle embodied in the AFSAM-7 and AFSAM-47B into the medium and high levels of NATO by mid-1956. The plan also provides for ultimate lower level use, i.e., in the low echelons where communications are basically national in character.

2. I have received from the British Cryptographic Liaison Officer a letter stating that, in the course of consideration of the 1953 COMSEC Conference Report by the cognizant UK authorities, LSIB approved the release of AFSAM-7 for international NATO communications.

3. In addition, separately from the Report, UK consideration was given to the release of AFSAM-7 for the national communications of NATO nations, since it was thought that sooner or later such use would prove necessary. This further release has been approved by the Cypher Policy Board and has also been approved by LSIB "when the need arises and provided that USCIB has no objection." This is approval in principle and is not concerned with the timing of the release.

4. The Secretary, Cypher Policy Board, has requested that he be informed if and when USCIB approves in principle the release of AFSAM-7 to NATO nations for national communications and also if and when a decision is made to release any of the machines.

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5. It seems to me that release of the AFSAM-7 for international NATO communications, as well as for national military purposes, makes approval for other national uses largely an academic question insofar as protection of cryptoprinciples is concerned. It follows almost certainly that with the issue of a substantial quantity of machines to Belgium, for example, some of them, or reproductions thereof, will find their way into national non-military uses. This is to be expected and could not be prevented in any case. Furthermore, use of the AFSAM-7 for national communications is in keeping with our general objective of improving the communications security of NATO nations.

6. I recommend, therefore, that USCIB approve in principle the release of the AFSAM-7 to NATO nations for the national as well as the international communications of those countries. Approval of this action by USCIB is not considered to be a U.S. commitment to provide machines for national use.

7. A proposed reply is inclosed for consideration.

  
RALPH J. CANINE  
Lieutenant General, US Army  
Director

Incl:  
Draft Reply

Copies furnished:  
Members of USCSB

cc: AG  
C/S  
P/P  
DD/COMSEC

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