

USCIB: 9.2/34

~~HANDLE VIA COMINT CHANNELS ONLY~~

26 April 1955

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

Subject: Alerting the Highest Authorities.

References: (a) USCIB 5/460 dated 30 July 1953.
(b) USCIB 13/357 dated 5 August 1953.
(c) ~~USCIB~~ 5.6/2 dated 10 January 1955.
INTCOM

1. Reference (a) referred to the Intelligence Committee the matter of preparing recommendations concerning a method of alerting the highest authorities with respect to crucial COMINT items.

2. The Central Intelligence Agency, in August of 1953, advised USCIB that it was undertaking a survey to determine the adequacy of existing alerting mechanisms within the intelligence community. CIA recommended that COMINT be included in the survey and requested concurrence of the USCIB members. USCIB, at its 90th Meeting in September of 1953, approved the CIA proposal that the communications intelligence components of the departments and agencies of USCIB should be included in the survey of alerting procedures being undertaken by the CIA, with the cooperation of the members of the Intelligence Advisory Committee, provided that insofar as COMINT might be concerned, the scope of the survey be confined to the mechanisms existing within the continental limits of the United States and would be concerned primarily with the means and methods for alerting the responsible authorities of the government after an item containing possible alert information has reached Washington. In addition to approving the procedure for handling the COMINT portion of the survey, USCIB agreed that the CIA, through its member on the Intelligence Committee, should keep the Committee advised of the nature and progress of this survey. The initial survey was considered inadequate by the CIA member of USCIB and the whole matter is being pursued further by the NSC Committee mentioned in the enclosed INTCOM report.

3. Meanwhile a National Indications Center has been established to provide a 24-hour watch service and serve as a receiving center for any intelligence information that may require immediate attention of the members of the Watch Committee of the Intelligence Advisory Committee. Arrangements have been made to provide directly by teletype to the NIC copies of COMINT items which might contain information warranting an alert. The NIC, upon receipt of a crucial item, is geared to immediately place the item before the Chairman of the Watch Committee. Such items, with the Watch Committee's evaluation and conclusion, go from the Watch Committee to the IAC to the National Security Council, or as directed by the Chairman of the Watch Committee.

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4. As this matter appears to be receiving active attention from competent authority it is recommended that the enclosed report by the Intelligence Committee be approved.

5. Members are requested to execute the attached vote sheet and return it to this office by close of business Wednesday 11 May 1955.


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

Enclosure

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INT # 0003

22 April 1955

~~TOP SECRET~~

MEMORANDUM FOR THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, USCIB

Subject: Alerting the Highest Authorities Concerning Crucial Items

References: (a) USCIB 5/460 dated 30 July 1953
(b) USCIB 13/357 dated 5 August 1953
(c) USCIB 5.6/2 dated 10 January 1955

1. The Intelligence Committee considered this matter in the light of the above references at its Twenty-seventh Meeting on 21 April 1955.

2. The CIA Member of INTCOM briefed the Committee on the latest developments concerning this subject, pointing out that a National Security Council committee was examining the fundamental aspects of the alerting problem and had established 15 May 1955 as a target date for submission of its recommendations.

3. INTCOM accordingly recommends that:

a. Further action by USCIB on the method of alerting the highest authorities be withheld pending the recommendations of the NSC committee.

b. The CIA Member of USCIB be requested to furnish pertinent recommendations of the NSC committee to the Executive Secretary.

c. The matter be dropped by the Intelligence Committee pending further instructions.

H. C. Simmons

H. C. SIMMONS
Lt. Colonel, USAF
Chairman, INTCOM