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17 November 1949

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BCM (CSP 3800A) WHICH
THE BRITISH MAY ASK, AND ANSWERS THERETO

1. Q. Can British take 3800A to England?
A. After British have officially accepted the BCM as the US-UK highest level crypto device.
2. Q. Circuit diagram and description of operation to England?
A. Same as answer to #1.
3. Q. How long will it take for combined purposes to replace CCM with BCM?
A. Until 1 Jan 1952 at the earliest.
4. Q. How secure is BCM compared to CCM?
A. All possible weaknesses of the CCM have been overcome in the BCM including -
 - Lobsters
 - End rotor off
 - Short cycle lengths.

The security of BCM is regarded as greatly superior to the CCM.
5. Q. If we adopt BCM now, as it stands, what are the prospects for even greater security at some future time, on a not too costly basis.
A. (a) Changeable tires.
(b) Add 2 effective rotors to the maze.
6. Q. Can the TYPEX be adapted to work with the BCM?
A. Yes. 7-rotor adaptation, 2 dummies. Proposed adapter will work with 5-rotor BCM, 5-rotor CCM, or 7-rotor machine.
7. Q. Why use dummies? Why not make them live rotors?
A. There is no means at the present time of adapting U.S. CCM machines to the 7-rotor design, but research is in progress.
8. Q. If BCM is for highest level, what will be used for medium level?
A. Use BCM with different rotors.
9. Q. What are the proposed US-UK physical security requirements?
A. (1) Register, and account for at least quarterly to a central office of record, all component parts, i.e.:
 - Machine
 - Baskets
 - Rotors
 - Key lists

(2) Stowage.
(3) Hazardous duty restrictions.

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CONT'D

10. Q. Would the U.S. authorize the manufacture, for the British, by the U.S. manufacturer, a sufficient number of the U.S. type of BCM, namely CSP 3800A, provided the British pay the cost?
A. Yes - if legally practicable. No objection by Armed Services but there may be legal obstacles to overcome.
11. Q. Will U.S. give British jigs and dies?
A. Not feasible.
12. Q. Will U.S. lend British jigs and dies?
Not feasible.
13. Q. British would like the blueprints to manufacture in England.
A. No - because of patents involved. Would have to have a license from Teletype.
14. Q. Is the U.S. prepared to compare the merits of BCM versus a proposed new British machine?
A. No. This is a conference about the BCM.
15. Q. British indicated unofficially that they would like to discuss low-echelon security equipment.
A. Will be discussed at conference on Monday, 21 November, at 11:00 a.m.

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