

REF ID: A404591

French Comsec file~~SECRET~~
Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : S/ASST (Mr. Friedman)

DATE: 17 May 54

FROM : NSA-41

SUBJECT: Memo for the Record

1. Inclosed is a copy of a memo for the record concerning a recent conversation I had with M. Dussot, French consul-general in Washington and communications head at the Embassy. (He is one of the Frenchmen to whom I demonstrated the ASAM 2-1 a few weeks ago.)

2. I believe, don't you, that this memo should be sent at least to Capt. Taylor and Mr. Polyzoides, maybe even to CWG? What do you say?

*Frank C. Austin*FRANK C. AUSTIN
Chief, NSA-41~~SECRET~~

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17 May 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Discussion with M. Dusset, and letter from M. Viola on ASAM 2-1

1. On Thursday, 13 May, I called at the French Embassy to see M. Dusset, French consul-general, and head of the communications section of the French Embassy. M. Dusset is one of the French to whom I demonstrated the ASAM 2-1 some few weeks ago.

2. He handed me a letter, a rough translation of which appears below.

"Dear Mr. Austin

Following the conversations which we had last week, when, among other things, we spoke of the ASAM 2-1, - five copies of which were delivered to our Embassy in Washington, - I now confirm that the gift interests us and that we have the intention, when we have enough machines of this type, to set up a network which will use this material exclusively.

The purpose of my letter is to inquire of you, since you asked me to write to you (on ASAM 2-1 questions) as to when and in what quantity it would be possible to furnish more machines. The purpose of this is to permit us to take the planning steps necessary for the organization of our services.

..... (signed) Viola"

3. M. Dusset then took pains to make it clear to me, as he had so been instructed by M. Viola, that the French were not trying to put pressure on us but that M. Viola had been told to write this letter by his superior, Bousquet, the secretary-general for administration of the French foreign office. As Dusset explained it to me the foreign office has two permanent secretaries, one, Farodi, for political questions and the other Bousquet, for administration.

4. I told Dusset that I would try to have some sort of an answer for him as soon as possible, that perhaps a few more machines might be dug up, but that I thought it would be a long time before any substantial quantity would be available.

5. As important background to this request, it should be recalled that Captain Taylor, USCIB Executive Secretary, as evidenced by his name for record on the ASAM 2-1 demonstrations, informed the French that after we, the US, had placed our new machine into effect, a sizable quantity

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of ASAM 2-1's might be made available to them. This information had been relayed to Viola. We discussed it briefly in Paris and I said it seemed to me a likely possibility. We did not discuss time.

6. It appears to me that three points need to be investigated before Viola's letter can be answered.

a. Can we locate a few more machines now which we can give the French?

b. Can we tell the French, with any reasonable accuracy, when some large quantity of ASAM 2-1's might be made available (after our introduction of APSAM 9's)? Presumably the total desired is still that originally requested.

c. Do we want to let them use ASAM 2-1's on this large and semi-permanent basis, or do we want to supply them with APSAM 9's? (This was listed as a long-range answer in the original reply to deVesjoli.)

7. Answers to the above are now being sought.

8. R. Susset informed me that he had retained two ASAM 2-1's in Washington and had ordered the necessary teletype equipment to go with them. He said the French were still expecting to send a maintenance man to Washington, and would ask our assistance in training him.

FRANK C. AUSTIN
Chief, Analysis and
Evaluation Division

cc: DD/COMSEC

V/DIR

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NSA-42

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S/ASST (Mr. Friedman)


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