

# 100TH USCIB Meeting

TOP SECRET

Item 4

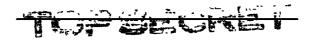
PTATUS REPORT ON ACTION TAKEN BY THE DIRECTOR, MSA, TO IMPROVE COMSEC THE CONTRACTOR WIDER HIS OPERATIONAL OR TECHNICAL CONTROL

#### MACROTROUND

- In August 1953 the Executive Secretary, UCCTA, expressed concorn over the high percentage of COMINT compromises due to ineffective communications security. He recommended that the Director, MSA, be instructed by UCCTB to take certain specific actions, including inspections if necessary, to remedy the situation (UCCTB 13/358).
- A. Subsequent papers recommended elimination of the inspection plants from the Executive Secretary's proposed draft. Instead, the Director, MEA, would be requested to establish and submit for Board approval minimum standards governing communications security systems, procedures, practices and training programs to be followed by all UECIB sembers in the transmission of COLINI by slectrical means.
- §. On 4 February 1954 USCIB approved a new Directive #9 "Instructions for Reporting Compromises and Possible Compromises of COMINT Information and of COMINT Code Words."
- 4. On 8 July 1954 UCCIB approved (UCCIB 13.5/42) the "minimum standards" paper submitted by Director, MSA. entitled "Security Requirements for Transmission of COMINT by Electrical Memos."
- 5. In his annual report to UFCIB (UECIB 5.4/12) the Executive Secretary recommended that the Director, MPA, prepare and forward to UECIB in time for consideration at the September meeting a status report on action taken to improve communications security in the CUMINT elements under his speciational or technical control, together with any recommendations he might deem appropriate.

### CURRENT COESTDERATION

- 6. USCIB 13.5/81 circulates for USCIB consideration the Status Report submitted by MSA.
- 7. In a covering memorandum it is pointed out that, while encryption errors and equipment failures are relatively frequent, more than half of all compromises of COMMF information continue to involve transmission in the clear on interceptible wire or radio circuits. In addition, a high percentage of these clear text transmissions are due directly to inattention of darelessness on the part of the operators.





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#### Item 4 (continued)

- 5. The memoranium states that, since improvements in equipments and procedures alone have not resulted in the desired improvement of the situation, preventive and corrective action in the future should place increased and continued emphasis on specific guides and criteria for training and indoctrination of personnel, and on the basic responsibility of common to develop in subordinates a deep sense of personal responsibility for the maintenance of security.
- 9. The report reveals that the bazard to security as a result of inserverent plainlenguage transmissions was recognized and brought to the attention of the Service Cryptologic Agencies by the Director in July 1951. Since that time, various equipment modifications and other corrective wide have been recommended. Some of those were immediately adopted by the Services; others have not yet been fully implemented. In the meantime, the violations continue at a high rate; and increased supposes on training appears to be the main solution.
- 10. The memorandum states that prosecution of a successful training program will require the exercise of strict administrative control, and that the authority to exercise such control resides in the Director under the terms of MECID #9. It is, nevertheless, the Director's intention not to assume direct administrative control at this time, but to continue to set through and in collaboration with the Services. The success of the stopperative effort in training, and the promptness of Service cooperation in adopting future recommendations for the improvement of communications security, will determine whether or not the Director should consider the exercise of more direct control.
- 11. In addition to establishing specific training criteria, the Director contemplates the following additional corrective action:
- a. Issue of check-off lists covering all phases of communication security, to be used in the conduct of periodic local inspections of field stations by the Communication of filter or Officer in Charge. Reports of these inspections will be submitted to NTA.
- b. Motification to the Service Field Activities that MSA is prepared to provide, on request, Training Visit Teams for the conduct of informal, instructional visits to field stations.

#### SECON CHOATION

23. No recommendation required on this item.

