

61-2636

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Staff Director,
President's Board of Consultants on
Foreign Intelligence Activities

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SUBJECT:

Dissolution of the U.S. Communications Security
Board and the NSC Special Committee for
Communications Security

REFERENCE:

Proposed Letter to Mr. Frederick G. Dutton

1. In connection with the proposed cancellation of NSC 5711, 25 April 1957, the following are the views of the Director, CIA:

a. An inter-departmental policy body in the field of communications security is necessary since the Department of State, Department of the Treasury, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Atomic Energy Commission and the Central Intelligence Agency are all users of cryptographic material and it is essential that they participate in the formulation of policies in this field. While we are in sympathy with the desire to eliminate boards and committees where advantageous, we believe that even if the present Communications Security Board were eliminated, assignment of its functions to some comparable body would be required.

b. The possibility of transferring the responsibilities of the Communications Security Board to the Intelligence Board was considered in January 1959 and was not deemed desirable. It has been reconsidered and still is believed inadvisable. On the other hand, assignment to the Department of Defense, in addition to that Department's responsibility as Executive Agent for communications security, also seems undesirable since it would deprive the other interested Departments and Agencies of any voice in the determination of policy affecting these matters.

c. While the Communications Security Board has met only infrequently, it has, from April 1956 to March 1961, in addition to its meeting agenda, dealt with 49 items on a votesheet basis, most of which directly affected the national interest.

[Handwritten signature]
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

d. We recommend that the U. S. Communications Security Board continue to function in accordance with its present charter. Should you desire further clarification of any point, a representative of this Agency is prepared to discuss the matter with you.

FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE:

LYMAN B. KIRKPATRICK
Inspector General

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CIA/SIS: :jak (4 Apr 61)

Note on transmittal slip to IG: "The Director requests that the reply to go over your signature. The substance of the attached was cleared with the DCI this morning."

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