

Executive Director
16359387

OC-1260

M-64165

14 DEC 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Director

SUBJECT : Encipherment of Traffic Between President Kennedy
and Premier Khrushchev

1. In the communications security briefing of the DCI this morning he commented that he was concerned about the delays in message handling time for messages between President Kennedy and Premier Khrushchev. He asked why encipherment prior to transmission is required.

2. After further consideration of Mr. McCone's question we are of the opinion that:

a. There would be no requirement for the encipherment of messages which are to be made public by one or both parties concerned.

b. In recognition of the fact that most governments have their own intercept capability it would be appropriate for privacy purposes to encipher any exchange which the two parties desire to keep from these other governments.

3. There are cryptographic systems which are available for this purpose, such as one-time tape systems, which NSA and the Communications Security Board would approve for issuance to the Soviets.

[Redacted Signature]

Director of Communications

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DEC 28 1962

(EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR) *Tommo*

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| UNCLASSIFIED | | CONFIDENTIAL | | SECRET | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------|-----------|----------------|--|
| CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP | | | | | |
| TO | NAME AND ADDRESS | | DATE | INITIALS | |
| 1 | D/commo. - By | | TELEPHONE | | |
| 2 | | | 18 DEC. | | |
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| 6 | | | | | |
| ACTION | | DIRECT REPLY | | PREPARE REPLY | |
| APPROVAL | | DISPATCH | | RECOMMENDATION | |
| COMMENT | | FILE | | RETURN | |
| CONCURRENCE | | INFORMATION | | SIGNATURE | |
| Remarks: <i>Could you find out why these were enciphered?</i> LBR | | | | | |
| FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER | | | | | |
| FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO. | | | | DATE | |
| | | | | 18 Dec | |
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