



NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
CENTRAL SECURITY SERVICE
FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND 20755

GC/425/79

Serial: N0961
20 August 1979

SECRET - HVCCO

The Honorable Benjamin R. Civiletti
The Attorney General
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

(U) I recently learned that the Department of Justice released to Mr. James Bamford an allegedly declassified version of the Department's 1976 and 1977 reports concerning its inquiry into CIA-related electronic surveillance activities. Mr. Bamford requested these documents from the Department of Justice under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) in connection with his research on a book about NSA. NSA considers that the material released to Mr. Bamford still contains classified information that requires special handling by virtue of its association with communications intelligence activities. Much of the information was obtained by the Department of Justice from NSA in 1975 and 1976 and was recognized as classified.

(S-) The Department of Justice did not coordinate 25X3 action on Mr. Bamford's request with the National Security Agency as the usual practice in FOIA cases would have required. We understand that your personnel considered that the prior release of much of this information in the hearings and reports of the Church Committee (Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations with Respect to Intelligence Activities), concerning the so-called "SHAMROCK" operation, effectively declassified the information and made it impossible to withhold it from further public disclosure. The "SHAMROCK" material was made public by the Church Committee over the explicit objections of the Executive Branch and, therefore, we continue to hold that it was an unauthorized disclosure which should not be given further dissemination by the Executive Branch.

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25X3
25X6

NSA review completed

CLASSIFIED BY NSA/CSSM 123-2
REVIEW ON 20 Aug 2009

SECRET

25X3

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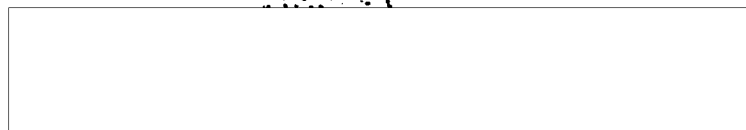
(U) I am sure you and your staff recognize the extreme sensitivity of the Government's signals intelligence activities for which the Secretary of Defense and the Director, NSA are responsible, and that their success depends in large measure upon absolute secrecy as to sources and methods. I seek your assurance that you will instruct all appropriate divisions of the Department of Justice that they should not declassify or release classified signals intelligence information in the future without thorough coordination with the Director, National Security Agency.

Sincerely,



B. R. INMAN
Vice Admiral, U. S. Navy
Director, NSA/Chief, CSS

Copy Furnished:
Secretary of Defense



~~TOP SECRET~~
SC-05078-76
Copy 1 of 2

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4. MINARET

The chartering of MINARET on July 1, 1969, formalized NSA's de facto collection and dissemination of intelligence concerning Presidential protection and foreign influences on domestic organizations and individuals which might create civil disturbances and/or undermine the national security. The Attorney General advised the PFIAB on February 5, 1971 that electronic surveillance to obtain intelligence concerning violence-prone groups was clearly within the jurisdiction of the Presidential responsibilities for maintaining law and order (pp.107, supra). Such intelligence was gathered and distributed by NSA to Federal consumer agencies, i.e., the CIA, FBI, Secret Service, ACSI, DIA, and State Department, all of whom levied requirements on NSA under NSCID 6 (pp. 78, supra). ENDD levied narcotics intelligence requirements on NSA in April 1970. [REDACTED]

MINARET intelligence, except one category of international voice communications involving narcotics, was obtained incidentally in the course of NSA's interception of aural and non-aural (e.g., telex) international communications, [REDACTED] 25X3 25X6
(SHAMROCK) [REDACTED]

Possible violations in MINARET are (1) aural acquisition (and/or use, disclosure, etc.) of wire and oral communications (18 U.S.C. §2511); and (2) receipt or interception and divulgence or use of radio communications (47 U.S.C. §605).

In conformity with NSA's one-terminal rule (p.61, supra), all MINARET communications apparently had at least one terminal in a foreign country and,

~~TOP SECRET~~ [REDACTED]
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HANDLE VIA COMINT CHANNELS