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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Chief, WH Division

FEB 5 1954

DATE:
CSD 4-087

FROM : Chief, Communications Security Division

SUBJECT: Increase in High Precedence Traffic

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZEDRYBAT

2003

1. A study of the recent South American traffic patterns shows a tremendous increase in the number of messages bearing a precedence of "Priority" or higher. For example, during the month of November 1953, there was a total of thirty-seven (37) priority messages to and from South America with no messages of higher precedence. From 1 through 26 January 1954, however, a total of two hundred and thirteen (213) high precedence messages have been processed; of this total, twenty-one (21) were "Operational Priority" and the remainder were "Priority".
2. Almost the entire increase is attributable to those stations directly associated with PBSUCCESS. It is obvious that a factor such as the use of high precedence indicators can serve to draw undue attention to the stations concerned; and in this case could conceivably link those stations directly involved in PBSUCCESS with a subsequent identification of U. S. interest in the target.
3. The [] file their cable traffic either by commercial cable facilities or through the [] radio network. In the former situation, the precedence indicator has no meaning to the carrier agency; in the latter, transmission of traffic takes place during scheduled contacts and again the indicator is of little value as all traffic is transmitted at the contact time, regardless of precedence. Further, the Communications personnel involved have been alerted to process PBSUCCESS traffic as expeditiously as possible.
4. If the purpose of the assignment of such high precedences is to assure prompt action and/or replies by the recipient, the addition of the phrase "Immediate Action" to the beginning of the drafted plain text will serve this end without focusing attention upon the transmitted text.
5. In addition, as you might anticipate, the volume of traffic to and from the stations concerned has multiplied at approximately the same rate. Guatemala City, for example, increased from four thousand groups in December 1953 to twenty six thousand groups for the first twenty six days of January 1954. Such rapid and large increase in the volume of traffic can present a hazard in and of itself.

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6. It is our belief that the circumstances noted above can create a serious hazard to PBSUCCESS. We suggest that you inform the stations concerned of the potential dangers of their current cable procedures and that cable facilities be used only when necessary and with appropriate regard for precedence. To meet the requirement for rapid action, it is suggested that the phrase "Immediate Action" be used as outlined in paragraph four above.

[]

Attachment: Precedence of South American Traffic

OC-S/GFD:bl (3 February)

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