

SECRET

Assistant Director for Operations

8 March 1949

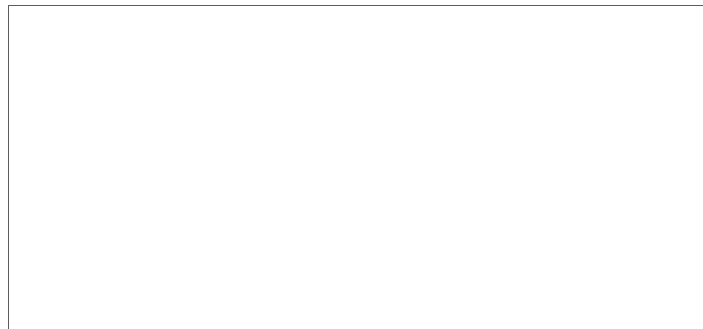
Chief, FBIB

Exploitation of Radio Amateurs

1. FBIB has determined that for its own purposes information from "ham" operators is of negligible value. Hams are interested in logging other amateur stations, and in general do not compete with "DX fans" in logging broadcast transmitters.
2. Amateurs hold brief, usually technical, conversations with as many other amateurs as possible. The majority of U.S. amateurs are loosely associated with the ARRL. USSR and Satellite amateurs, on the other hand, are apparently closely controlled by their "clubs", working in some instances, at least, under the direction of a supervisor furnished by the club. Their conversations are confined to a standard pattern of non-committal information concerning reception conditions, etc.
3. Except for possibilities in the counter-espionage field, it is believed that exploitation of amateurs with reference to the USSR and Satellites could lead at best only to information concerning the location of ham transmitters, an item of dubious intelligence value.
4. If it is nevertheless desired to exhaust the possibilities of the project, Contacts Branch should make an approach through the ARRL to individual amateurs who make a practice of working Soviet or Satellite hams.

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