

Executive Registry  
8-7669

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, National Security Agency  
ATTENTION: [redacted]

25X1

SUBJECT: Proposed Cryptographic System

1. Enclosed is a letter from [redacted] offering a cryptographic system for possible use by the United States. Also enclosed is a copy of our acknowledgment.

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2. We would appreciate your taking appropriate action and replying to him directly if further correspondence is necessary.

FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE:

MURKINGTON D. SHELDON  
CIA Member, USCIB

2 Enclosures: a/b

OCI/[redacted]/mfg/29 Oct 56

Distribution: Orig & 1 - Addressee  
1 - [redacted] Asst to DCI  
1 - AD/CI  
1 - SpINT

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RECORDING FILE NSA

NSA review(s) completed.

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This will acknowledge your letter of October 7, 1956, offering a cryptographic system for possible use by the United States Government.

We have referred your letter to the National Security Agency, which is that branch of the Government most qualified to pass on the merits of your system.

Thank you for your interest and concern.

Very truly yours.

Huntington D. Sheldon

cc: NSA

OCI/[ ]/mfg/29 Oct 56

Distribution: Orig - Addressee

- 1 - [ ] Asst to DCI ✓
- 1 - AD/CI
- 1 - SpINT

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October 7, 1950

Mr. Allen W. Dulles  
Director  
U. S. Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Inclosed you will find a ciphered message, and its solution, employing a system I have been well over twenty-years in developing. My reason for submitting it for your consideration follows.

During the Korean War, in Seattle, Washington, I made the acquaintance of a Naval Officer whose name, unfortunately, I have long since forgotten. In the course of our brief, but pleasant acquaintance, I had occasion to show this Officer a very small, and inconsequential portion of this cipher system. Much to my surprise he became very much interested and, after asking me a number of pertinent questions, directed that under no circumstances was I to reveal any portion of this system to anyone else. He also gave me the name and address of a governmental agency, yours, with the instructions that just as soon as it was possible for me to do so, I should forward the system to you for your consideration.

I failed to follow this no doubt excellent advice because at that time I was what is commonly called a "two-fisted" drinking man, and, hence, felt that should your, or any other agency acquire, and use, this cipher system, I would be, because of my drinking, a poor person to be entrusted with such an important secret. So, in a manner of speaking, I shelved the entire idea until such a day when I would have quit drinking for good.

Frankly I never anticipated, or desired, that this day should ever arrive. But, arrive it did. On June 1, 1954, to be exact. On that date I suffered a perforation of the stomach and was rushed to the Cook County Hospital, Chicago, Illinois, where I underwent emergency surgery. I was released from that hospital thirty-seven days later. July 7th, to be exact. Since that date I have not taken a drink. And, because of the badly ulcerated condition of what remains of my stomach which, by the way, the doctors wanted to remove entirely, and still do, for that matter, it is extremely doubtful that I shall ever drink again. At least not in this world. Consequently I now feel that I can safely be trusted with any sort of confidential matter.

For obvious reasons I have failed to include the master key from which the inclosed ciphered message was formed.

Trusting your judgement, and feeling certain that should same prove desirable you will instigate whatever course of action is in order, I remain...

Very Truly Yours

Gentlemen:

The cipher system I herewith call to your attention, and henceforth referred to as the system, while using but one alphabet can be formed into well over 1,000 entirely different master keys.

In each of these master keys every letter of the alphabet, excepting 'z', is represented by anywhere from one to eight, or more different letters.

For instance the letter 'a' in the following ciphered message, is represented by the following eight letters: v, k, t, l, w, d, y and o. Each of these eight letters in turn are used to represent eight other and different letters.

While complex to an extreme this system is unique due to the fact that no cipher or code book is required for the ciphering or deciphering of a message. Everything, but everything, can be memorized. And that easily. In fact, while admittedly far from being an Einstein, mentally, the writer is confident that he can teach any person of average intelligence this entire system in a weeks time, or less. However, it may not be amiss to mention that, to even one fully familiar with this system, it would prove extremely difficult, if not actually impossible, to decipher a message, should he not know how to locate, and properly identify, certain key letters which would be contained in each and every message.

Follows the ciphered message...

QBIF RVFK REBE KGMR UQNX JHAV GOZJ GHHD JDWJ RUWO GBYR NHTV  
PDGL HRLK FAYE GWSR IPID HZDT GBJQ NEGQ WWRX LKPA GOIX PZDK  
TIWC GWPV PDRX LWPT ZONX VDMV GOOX DILG USNG YKAT QPSX K/YI  
GTTO YLJR IDWG KEPP FCBU XGAT GXYP JRDK EYRX LWPT JDCL CDEP  
EZ....

Follows the unciphered message.

In this cipher system the letter z when used will denote either a period or other stop. When used double the letter z will denote the letter z. The master key from which this message was ciphered is denoted by the following letters; efababnn.

I have purposely made this message, that is the ciphered version, considerably simpler than it could be made. After all, it sorely taxed what few brains I possess to do as much as I have. Brother, you can take it from me, that I never will make a cipher expert, or any other kind of expert requiring brains.

Hoping all this labor on my part produces the desired effect, namely, arouses your interest to the extent that you will relieve me of this vexing brain child, I remain

Very Truly Yours