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Director of Central Intelligence
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NSC 5618

December 19, 1956

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

THE NSC SPECIAL COMMITTEE

on

TECHNICAL SURVEILLANCE COUNTERMEASURES

NSC Declassification/Release Decision on File

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W A R N I N G

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE LAWS, TITLE 18, U. S. C., SECTIONS 793 AND 794, AS AMENDED, ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW.

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NOTE BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

to the

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

on

THE NSC SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON TECHNICAL SURVEILLANCE COUNTERMEASURES

- References: A. Memo for NSC from Executive Secretary,
subject: "Clandestine Listening Devices,"
dated September 7, 1956
B. NSC Action No. 1640

The National Security Council, the Acting Secretary of the Treasury, the Attorney General, the Special Assistant to the President for Disarmament, the Director, Bureau of the Budget, and the Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission, by Memorandum Action as of December 19, 1956 (NSC Action No. 1640):

Adopted the draft directive of July 31, 1956, on the subject, providing for establishment of the NSC Special Committee on Technical Surveillance Countermeasures, transmitted by the reference memorandum of September 7, 1956, subject to:

a. Recommendations by the Secretary of Defense that:

- (1) The word "and," in the next-to-the-last line of paragraph 2 of the directive, be deleted, substituting therefor the words "The Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, U. S. Marine Corps; and."
- (2) A reassessment be made, after the proposed committee has been in existence for six months, of the need for a permanent committee to deal with this problem.

b. A proviso by the Attorney General that the understanding of paragraphs 4-b-(2) and 4-d of the directive by the Director of the FBI, as noted in the memorandum of Mr. J. Patrick Coyne to Mr. James S. Lay, Jr., dated August 24, 1956 (transmitted by the reference memorandum of September 7), represents the understanding of the National Security Council.

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NOTE: The above action subsequently submitted to the President, who approved the draft directive subject to the recommendations by the Secretary of Defense and the proviso by the Attorney General; and subject to the further amendment to provide that the representative of the Secretary of State shall be permanent chairman of the committee (instead of being elected by majority vote of the committee). The directive, as approved by the President, subsequently circulated as NSC 5618 to all interested departments and agencies for appropriate implementation.

The President has this date approved the directive on the subject, as amended and adopted and enclosed herewith as NSC 5618. Accordingly, the approved directive is circulated herewith to all interested departments and agencies for appropriate implementation, subject to reassessment in six months of the need for a permanent committee to deal with this problem.

JAMES S. LAY, JR.
Executive Secretary

cc: The Secretary of the Treasury
The Attorney General
The Special Assistant to the
President for Disarmament
The Director, Bureau of the Budget
The Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission
The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
The Director of Central Intelligence

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DIRECTIVE ESTABLISHING
THE NSC SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON TECHNICAL SURVEILLANCE COUNTERMEASURES

On the recommendation of the National Security Council, pursuant to the provisions of Section 101 of the National Security Act of 1947, as amended, the President hereby authorizes and directs that:

1. There be established under the National Security Council a Special Committee on Technical Surveillance Countermeasures (hereinafter referred to as the Committee) which shall act in accordance with the provisions of this Directive.

2. The Committee shall be composed of one representative of each of the following: The Secretary of State (whose representative shall serve as permanent Chairman); The Secretary of Defense; The Director of Central Intelligence; The Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation; The Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence, Department of the Army; The Director of Naval Intelligence, Department of the Navy; The Director of Special Investigations, Department of the Air Force; The Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, U. S. Marine Corps; and The Director of the National Security Agency.

3. The heads of other departments and agencies (e. g., the Atomic Energy Commission) shall participate in the activities of the Committee to the extent required by the Committee in carrying out its responsibilities and shall lend such support as may be made available within their respective capabilities. As a representative of the National Security Council, the NSC Representative on Internal Security shall participate as an observer and adviser in all meetings of the Committee.

4. It shall be the responsibility of the Committee:

a. To conduct a continuing study and review of the domestic and foreign aspects of the threat to the security of classified defense information of the United States presented by the installation and operation of clandestine technical surveillance devices in quarters or facilities occupied or used by personnel of the United States Government.

b. To establish and coordinate policies with respect to counter-ing such threat, for the purpose of insuring:

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(1) Coordination, and a continuing exchange of information, with respect to research and development, technical equipment, security indoctrination and training (both technical and non-technical), search techniques and other related aspects of countermeasures to defend against clandestine technical surveillance devices.

(2) The establishment by departments and agencies of procedures to be followed upon the discovery of such devices, including prompt notification thereof to the heads of interested departments and agencies, as well as exploitation by the agencies concerned.

(3) Prompt notification to the Committee concerning the discovery or suspected presence of such devices, and a damage report on the extent and nature of known or presumed compromise of U. S. classified defense information, for coordinated consideration of the effect upon the national security.

c. To resolve conflicts that may arise in the implementation of policies relating to countermeasures designed to meet the threat described in paragraph 4-a, above, with a view to instituting and maintaining effective coordination among United States departments and agencies primarily concerned.

d. To review the extent to which disclosures concerning clandestine technical surveillance devices or countermeasures thereto have been made by the United States Government to foreign governments or international organizations in which the U. S. Government participates and to establish policies and procedures concerning such disclosures.

5. The Committee shall meet once each month or more often as may be necessary to effect full compliance with the terms of this Directive.

6. Decisions of the Committee and policies established pursuant to the provisions of this Directive, shall require unanimous agreement of the members. Questions of policy upon which the Committee may fail to reach agreement in pursuance of its assigned responsibilities as set forth in this Directive shall be promptly referred to the National Security Council for resolution.

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7. The Committee shall submit annual progress reports to the National Security Council, and in the interim shall submit to the NSC any reports or recommendations respecting policy matters falling within the scope of this Directive which may require consideration by the Council.

8. Secretariat services shall be supplied by the members of the Committee.

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