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NSA-4-6403

Chief of Station, Karlsruhe

27 September 1940

Chief, Foreign Division H

Attn: []

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Operational

Zipper F-Net (Project 145)

REFERENCE: NSLA 5207, NSLA 3026

1. Preparations for the readiness of the first five pilot teams appear to have progressed most satisfactorily and it is gratifying to know that there is at least a possibility of contacting a few operators in the western zone should an emergency arise.

2. The training exercises now being conducted should give you a fair idea of the proficiency of each operator under simulated emergency conditions. Depending upon the results of these exercises, we should like to suggest as the next possible step in this program the preparation of signal plans based on a distance comparable to that used for the plans forwarded with NSLA 2201, which would permit a true evaluation of the actual possibility of contact between the operator and say a base in London. In other words we should like to have one or two of these operators come up on assigned frequencies at prescribed times, send blind and have the transmissions monitored in London. The present exercises will be a real test of the proficiency of each operator but will not provide any assurance that he can actually be heard and contacted as far away as London.

3. It seems to us that only through such monitoring can we actually determine the shortcomings of the controversial ZIPPER three watt transmitter. Quite obviously all the well-laid plans for an F-net will be of no avail if it is found that satisfactory communications cannot be maintained from a base outside Germany, and it is quite clear that we will have to depend upon the Zipper set for some time since new equipment could not be put into operation for at least six months or more. In that regard we might mention that the Communications Division is replying by separate memorandum to NSLA 5161.

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

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Date: 2005

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)

(2)(A) Privacy ☐

(2)(B) Methods/Sources ☒

(2)(G) Foreign Relations ☐

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4. If in your opinion there are no objections security or otherwise to the above-mentioned tests, would you kindly initiate arrangements for transmissions on appropriate frequencies and allow sufficient time for the dates of such broadcasts as to permit receipt of the signal plans here and transmittal to London. For the present, exercise broadcasts by one or perhaps two of the operators in Munich and Frankfurt would be sufficient. The Lipper staff need not know the location of the monitoring base although they will be able to draw their own conclusions since you will, of course, have to inform them of the purpose of the tests. Admittedly this is a one-way affair since the operator will not be contacted by the base but some progress will at least have been made if we can be sure that he can be read in London.

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