DOCID: 3986607

Declassified and approved for release by NSA on 06-14-2012 pursuant to E.O. 13526

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MEMORANDUM FOR: The Secretary of State
The Secretary of Defense

24 Oct 52

SUBJECT: Communications Security (COMSEC) Matters

The security of classified Federal telecommunications (COMSEC) is a national responsibility. COMSEC policies and procedures must be integrated so as to enable the various departments and agencies of the Government to cooperate effectively in such matters and to satisfy legitimate requirements for the security of their classified messages.

I therefore designate the Secretaries of State and Defense as a Special Committee of the National Security Council for COMSEC matters, to establish such policies relating to COMSEC as will achieve the maximum security of classified Federal telecommunications and to keep me advised of such policies through the Executive Secretary of the National Security Council.

In the COMSEC field, I direct the Special Committee of the NSC to prepare and issue directives which will:

1. Rescind the Executive Order of 3 July 1945 entitled "Cryptographic Security With Respect to Certain Communications of the Government".

2. Establish a United States Communications Security Board (USCSB) responsible for integrating policies and procedures affecting the security of classified Federal telecommunications.

3. Provide for the establishment of appropriate responsibilities and authorities to assure within the Executive Branch, among other things:

(a) High and uniform standards of communication security.

(b) Effective cooperation in COMSEC matters between departments and agencies concerned.

(c) The adequacy of the cryptographic systems used.

(d) Coordination of COMSEC problems, particularly policies with respect to foreign governments.

(e) Satisfaction of legitimate requirements for the security of classified telecommunications.

(Signed) HARRY S. TRUMAN

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