12 February 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJ: Analytical notes for third VENONA release

1. (U) Messages being released:

Lane	# of translations	# of pages
Wash->Mos	36	66
Mos->NY	65	92
NY->Mos	458	813
Total	559	971

2. (U) Protection of cryptographic titles:

3. (U) Foreign government information:

(U) GCHQ's SIGINT serial numbers (NBF numbers) no longer require protection. These numbers may appear in the upper right hand corner and bottom left hand corner of pages, as well as in footnotes. Hopefully, the FOIA requesters will not require that we re-issue the translations already released because the numbers do not provide substantive information. Once all VENONA material has been released, however, we should reprocess the previously released material to reinstate these numbers and re-release it on INTERNET, to libraries, etc. so that the most complete copy possible is available to the public.

Derived From: NSA/CSSM 123-2
Dated 3 September 1991
Declassify On: Source Marked "OADR"
Date of source: 3 Sep 91

(b)(1)
(b)(3)-50 USC 3024(i)
(b)(3)-18 USC 798
(b)(3)-P.L. 86-36

Approved for Release by NSA on 07-03-2014, FOIA Case # 42771

(b)(1)
(b)(3)-P.L. 86-36

[redacted]

~~(FOUO)~~ Eleven messages relating to Maclean and British government activities were coordinated with GCHQ. [redacted] advised on 12 Dec 95, that the messages can be released.

(b)(3)-P.L. 86-36

4. (U) Names in OSS list:

(U) The KGB passed an OSS-originated list of suspected members of the Communist Party (CP). (See NY->Mos, 22 Sep 44, #1354.) All names on the list, with the exception of Donald Wheeler, are protected pursuant to the sixth exemption. Wheeler is released elsewhere because he was part of the Perlo cell, so there is no need to protect his name in this context. Although we generally consider the appearance of a truename in a message as releaseable, the list does not contain KGB, but OSS, information. The inclusion of an individual's name on such a list is a matter of personal privacy, not outweighed by the public's interest in such information.

(U) Two other messages contain references to the list and to two names on the list (Goldberg and Jimenez). (See NY->Mos, 5 Oct 44, #1400 and 15 Sep 44, #1325, 1326, respectively.) Because these messages contain only surnames, which are common names, with no further identification of the individuals, the names are released in these two messages.

(U) The final decision of the applicability of the sixth exemption was made by the D/DIR.

5. (U) Atom bomb messages:

(U) Messages related to the atom bomb spies, which were overlooked when documents were gathered for the 11 July 1995 release, are contained in this release as follows:

1. Moscow->NY 183/27 Feb 45 Fuchs and Gold
2. " 275/25 Mar 45 Gold
3. " 349/10 Apr 45 Fuchs and Enormoz
4. NY->Moscow 1390/1 Oct 44 Gold
5. " 1397/4 Oct 44 Fuchs and Gold
6. " 1507/23 Oct 44 Greenglass (Greenglass is in error here. Coverterm equated to him should be equated to Walter Lippman.)

(b)(6)

7. " 1536/28 Oct 44 Gold
8. " 1606/16 Nov 44 Gold/Fuchs

(U) In addition, we are re-releasing seven historically significant translations released on 11 July because we have learned that the names Theodore Hall and Saville Sax do not require protection. Lou Benson found these names in documents previously released by the FBI and contained in the FBI FOIA reading room. Because of the interest in the identity of MLAD (i.e., Hall), we do not want to delay the public availability of these messages.

6. (U) Names requiring D/DIR decision on release:

~~(FOUO)~~ The names of Joseph Berger, [redacted] Helen Koral, [redacted] and Ricardo Setaro were provided to D/DIR for decision on releasability because of the perceived historical significance to the release as opposed to the rules previously established for the protection of names. All of the names followed the rules for protection (i.e., the result of a government equation or a truename in text as a subject of recruitment with no other publicly releasable information confirming the recruitment).

~~(FOUO)~~ D/DIR did not find extenuating circumstances to allow for the release of the [redacted], but did agree to the release of the other names. The historical signifcance of the names in this context and, therefore the public interest, outweigh the privacy concerns.

(U) Koral and Setaro were protected in the July 1995 release, but their names will be reinstated when we do our final review of all names (see item 7 below).

7. (U) Future release of additional names:

(U) As we continue to review and analyze the translations, we find that some names protected in previous releases are releasable. As we come across those names in documents not yet released, we are releasing them. Once we have completed our review of all documents being considered for release, we will go back to reinstate those names previously denied which do not require continued protection. (Examples of names that will be reinstated in previously released material are Christina Krotkova, Zalmond Franklin, Sylvia Doxsee and Carl Wittfogel.) (Also see paragraph 6.) The translations of the first two releases will also be reissued with the NBF numbers reinstated, as discussed in paragraph 3.

8. (U) Referrals to CIA:

(U) Documents sent to CIA for response to NSA:
1. Wash->Moscow 1791/29 Mar 45
2. " 1793/29 Mar 45
3. NY->Moscow 838/13 Jun 44

CIA has no objection to the release of the references to CIA on these documents.

9. (U) Earlier versions of messages:

(U) I spoke with Linda Miller about some reissued messages, whose earlier versions are also contained in this release. The earlier versions are attached to other messages and cannot be easily excised without raising questions. Believing it best not to make wholesale deletions of such material if not necessary, I asked Linda if we need to protect the earlier versions. She said we do not have to protect.

10. (U) Term "group not yet available":

~~(FOUO)~~ This term appears for the first time in this release. I asked [redacted] (Z) about releasability of the term and its meaning. He does not know what the term means and has no objection to its release.

Rona Lerner
Rona Lerner
N5P5

cc: OGC [redacted]

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