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Copy No. 4.

23rd March, 1954.

Director of Signals,
Department of Army.

Copy to Director of Intelligence,
Department of Army.

DETACHMENT

Referring to a telephone conversation last week (Bruton/Burrough), you may like to know that, according to a signal from GCO Singapore sent on 12th March, General Templer recently sent a personal message to [redacted]

[redacted] detachment) congratulating them on their "brilliant and persistent work under difficult circumstances and over a long period". I am not clear whether this was sent before or after the recent suspicious transmissions were picked up (between 3rd and 6th March), but am finding out about this.

2. There is no further news to date of any further follow-up of the transmissions in question, which are strongly presumed to have been MCP. On the other hand, tremendous interest has been aroused in Malaya and every effort is being made with the small manpower available to search for further, similar activity. I have told GCO that he has your authority to reinforce [redacted] at the expense of the main station at Singapore [redacted]

3. The main difficulty in Singapore and Malaya is lack of operators. We have recently asked [redacted] to do all it can to increase its present civilian numbers (6 supervisors, 32 operators) for [redacted] and two small civilian-manned outstations; the position regarding the size of the AMF detachment is of course well understood at DSB: the fifteen for whom authority exists are undoubtedly doing a first class job. The total resources however are stretched beyond reasonable limit and are still quite inadequate. We are now thinking in terms of a quasi-permanent outstation at [redacted] manned by about 10 operators (if local conditions permit), and with transportable DF: [redacted] have been warned again about the latter but have not yet accepted financial responsibility.

(R. N. THOMPSON)
DIRECTOR, D.S.B.

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