

Telephone No.
2/08, Ext. 98



Government Communications Office,

2601/005

23rd March, 1954.

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GCO/14-6-485

MH(R)B

The Director,
The Director, D.S.B.

MS
file

Herewith the current installment of the
CC, AMF Detachment, report on all ground source
intelligence with a bearing on the possible use
of wireless by the MCP. The report covers the
period up to 28th February, 1954. It does not
include collateral concerning the possible MCP
activity intercepted early in March.

A further installment will be published
in August, unless the material available makes
an interim report necessary. Highlights are to
be notified by signal as before.


A. Lieven.

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SUMMARY OF INFORMATION RECEIVED ON POSSIBLE

M.C.P. USE OF WIRELESS 1953/1954

1. This Summary is intended to review all recent information received up to February, 1954, on the subject of M.C.P. attempts to establish, or to prepare members for, wireless communication. Some early reports have been referred to in order to tie them in with subsequent items.
2. On 19th and 21st September, 1953, two transceiver were recovered from a C.T. camp in the _____ area of _____ (near _____ State Boarder).
 - (a) One of these, a relatively new type 68T British Army Transceiver (Serial No. 1906), complete with all necessary equipment less headphones, and battery, was subsequently tested and found to be unserviceable. However, it appeared to have been well cared for and may have been used for transmissions before it was rendered unserviceable. In support of this was the fact that the battery connecting cable showed considerable signs of wear at the point where it emerged from the set, as if it had been rubbing against the case whenever it was connected up to the batteries. In the country where it was recovered it would probably have a working range of up to 20 miles (CW), and a frequency range of 3 to 5.2 m/cs. It could be powered by dry cell battery only.
 - (i) An _____, who was _____ body guard, stated on 10th November, 1953, that this 68T Set was the one which was captured by the M.C.P. from the Malay Regiment in _____ area of _____ sometime in 1951.
 - (ii) In December, 1951, _____ took this set to the Communication Post at the 56th mile, _____ for safe keeping. In July, 1952, he took it with him when he joined _____ party in _____ and thence to _____
 - (iii) _____ stated that the set had never been used at all for transmitting or receiving of messages owing to lack of batteries. This conflicts with _____ statement that the set he saw operating in the jungle in October, 1952, at _____ camp, was the same type as the Army Set 68T.
 - (b) The other set, a Crystal Set 311 (Serial No. 46317), was an old Force 136 Type B Mk. II Set, and showed signs of considerable deterioration. It was complete with all parts of transmitter, receiver, power supply, and leads, etc., but had no battery or crystals. The set would work from either a 6 volt accumulator or 110-240 volt AC Mains. Upon testing it was found to be unserviceable, mainly due to exposure to dampness, as would occur in the jungle, which had penetrated the waterproof seals of the equipment. It is thought unlikely that this set could have been used for at least a year previous to its capture, and probably not for two or three years. The set has an output of up to 35 watts with consequent range of hundreds of miles (CW). Its crystal controlled frequency range is 3 - 16 m/cs.
 - (i) _____ stated that this set had been parachuted down in the _____ area during the Japanese occupation period.
 - (ii) He also said that this set was taken to the Communication Post at 56 mile _____ sometime in 1950 by _____ In April, 1953, it was taken to _____ area by _____ and _____
 - (iii) However, before being taken to _____ camp, _____ it was tested at the Communication Post by _____ and found to be unserviceable. Upon arrival at _____ camp it was stored but never used.

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- (c) A Mullard portable commercial receiver, battery operated was also recovered with the above sets. This was found to be in working order.
3. An _____ who surrendered on 14th August, 1953, stated that in October, 1952, he had on the orders of one of _____ party purchased a 12 volt battery, and twelve yards of insulating wire. He presumed that these were later passed to _____
4. Two two battery operated commercial receivers were captured on during July, 1953. One of these had the times of transmission of Radio _____ and _____ attached to the case, and had several marks and names of various radio stations pencilled upon the dial. A very pronounced mark on the 30 metre band had a _____ character beside it which was translated as "Communist".
5. A Philips receiver captured in the _____ district on 22nd July, 1953, was tuned to 7.9 M/cs on the 40 metre band.
6. It has been reported that ~~ten~~^{six} short distance R/T sets (possibly Walkie Talkies) were captured by the _____ in August, 1952, in the area of _____ These sets were reported to have been manufactured in England and called "Two-Way Talkie" (a somewhat loose description), and to have been procured from commercial agents (at present unknown) in Malaya or _____ No further information has been obtained on this subject to date.
7. A somewhat incomplete report from a rather dubious source (a C.T. subscription collector) states that in June, 1953, four transceivers arrived at a place (not known) somewhere in _____ Two of these sets were sent to the _____ area of _____ and two to the "sand river of _____ and thence to "the hill top surrounded by jungle three miles from the back of _____ One of these sets is now with _____ of _____ Estate. It was further stated that these sets were collected from _____ by a C.T. representative and _____ and taken by rail to _____ in _____ four separate consignments. At _____ they were taken to pieces and mixed with other goods before being conveyed to _____ by track. These statements are being investigated.
8. A captured document, a letter from _____ copywriter to _____ acknowledges receipt upon 25th May, 1952, of three lots of radio sets. One lot containing 2 receivers and 2 transmitters was spoiled, through the transmitters would still work between 19 and 30 metres. The other four sets appeared to be ordinary receivers. This report is also being investigated.
9. Additional evidence shows that the M.C.P. are interested in obtaining wireless sets from _____ and _____ and in building sets themselves.
- (a) Several books on wireless construction and theory were recovered from the body of an _____ C.T., who was killed at _____ Estate, _____ District. The M.C.P. appeared to have gone to considerable trouble to obtain these books which apparently were supplied from _____ and it is thought that the C.T. was delivering them when he was killed. These books are now held by D.S.B.
- (b) Mention of the fact that C.T. are trained to build wireless receivers and transmitters is contained in a letter found in the possession of a courier captured in _____ in the first week of October, 1953. This letter was from the M.C.P. Committee, _____ to the _____ Bureau. (see para 23).

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References to Wireless Transmissions by M.C.P.

10.

An [redacted] interrogated on 30th July, 1953, stated that he had seen a wireless set, powered by a 6 volt accumulator, operated for about 20 minutes at 1800 GH in the first weeks of October, 1952, at the camp of the commander, 2nd Regiment, M.C.P., in the area around [redacted]. The messages received, about six lines in length, were written down in what [redacted] thought was English.

- (a) [redacted] subsequently identified the wireless set as the 68T set which was captured in this area on 19-21st September, 1953.
- (b) However this statement was contradicted by [redacted] (Para 2(a) refers). Also, the 68T set will not operate from a 6 volt battery unless a special H.T. Vibrator Unit is used. No evidence has been found suggesting that such a Vibrator Unit existed. A dry cell battery 3 volt-1.62 volt is the normal battery for this set. For similar reasons the 12 volt battery [redacted] took to [redacted] camp in October, 1952, would not be used to test a set of the 68T type.

11.

[redacted] stated that a wireless station situated in area of [redacted] attempted to operate on three occasions, using on the first occasion a frequency 11-1.5 M/cs and on the third from 5 - 7.5 M/cs. The frequency used on the second is not known.

- (a) On the first occasion in April, 1952, the aerial was pointing SOUTH WEST and on the others NORTH in order to improve reception from those directions. The actual dates of working are thought to have been 8th, 18th and 28th of the month between March and May, 1952.

12.

The following references to wireless appeared in [redacted] diary:-

- (a) "The two wireless operators sent to [redacted] will in future be controlled by South Malaya Bureau"
- (b) "They will establish contact with [redacted] if there is a lack of equipment they can be given other work temporarily"
- (c) "If possible a set should be brought from [redacted]. The range of this set is 35 miles R/T and anywhere in Malaya using morse? If a station exists in Malaya a set can receive the message. This type of set can be found in every armoured car it is not difficult to seize on".

Note:- The armoured car set is a No. 19 Set, none of which are known to be in bandit hands. It is operated by a 12 volt accumulator and not dry batteries. As a 62 set was recovered by the [redacted] in March, 1953, it is thought that [redacted] may have been referring to this particular set. Particularly as the 62 set is similar in appearance to the 19 set and also works off an accumulator. Here the M.C.P. appear to be alive to the possibility of using a transmitter broadcasting to commercial receivers.

13.

Several reference were made to wireless transmissions in a letter dated 10th February, 1952, between [redacted] and [redacted] in which the former asked:-

- (a) [redacted] to use 41 metres while he [redacted] used 41.43 K/cs. Codes, times and signal calls were to be as before. Continual contact to be maintained until the end of the year.
- (b) [redacted] to use 32 metres and to signal first whereupon a reply would be made on 5838 K/cs. Contact to be made on the 9 and 29th of each month commencing April, 1952, at 1500 hrs GMT.
- (c) [redacted] to remember he would be on 5838 K/cs and to avoid changing this frequency to one which he did not have and that [redacted] would continue to use 41.43.

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Note:- Apparently the set available to had a range of 4 to 10 M/Cs, but appeared to be crystal controlled - the 62 set has this range while the war time B 2 has a much wider range, and both can be crystal controlled.

14. On 4th July, 1953, a report from the authorities stated that a C.T. wireless link operated from area in to and in June, 1953. It was not possible to obtain further details from the Thia authorities.
15. A document written on 7th February, presumably 1952, reporting that had passed through on his way to take over Boarder Committee in place of also contained a reference that wireless set had gone out of action, and that he requested new schedules to be fixed. From this it may be inferred that the set had been used for transmission previous to this date.

Intercepted Transmissions.

16. On 28th July, 1953, F/Lt. Church was listening to Radio Malaya in Kuala Lumpur when an unidentified station, transmitting on 348 metres interfered with the reception of the broadcast station. This, unknown station was transmitting in and during period 2035 - 2043 hrs. bandspread over the programme. who lives some fifty yards from reported a similar occurrence approximately two months previously. Both houses are close to a Temple. It was considered that such interference could only be caused by a transmitter in the immediate vicinity of the receivers.
17. The picked up an unknown station on the night of 8th September, 1953, on frequency 6300 K/cs, using R/T and good English but with a slight accent,
- (a) Upon being challenged the unknown station calling itself YZ60 gave its frequency as 4300 K/cs, and said that it was a ground station but would not say whether it was Military, Civilian or Police.
 - (b) The were situated at Estate, and the strength of the intercepted signal was very strong.
 - (c) A similar instance was reported by area on 1st May, 1953 and also in March by the above unit.
18. Attention is again drawn to the interception by of an unidentified R/T transmission in January, 1950. These stations were transmitting on 7000 K/cs and speaking in and were heard on 19th and 23rd of January.
- (a) Considerable trouble had been taken to produce a makeshift D/F aerial and this was used on 23rd to obtain bearings of the transmitting station. The bearing obtained was between 212 - 262 degrees.
 - (i) Because of the nature of the equipment and method used it is considered that the bearing can only be taken to be very approximate.
 - (b) The references in correspondence dated 3rd and 10th ^{February} January, 1950, to the effect that experts claimed that the station was not a bandit and not in Malaya has since been subject to doubt. At present no official explanation as to how these transmissions were identified has been presented.

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Note:- The Federation Authorities have now brought forward information which leads them to suspect who holds an experimental licence to transmit on frequency 7014-7028 M/cs as being responsible for this transmission. It may be only coincidence that the bearing obtained by the passes through the location of house in It is thought possible that may be the mentioned in the intercept.

References to Use of Codes, by M.C.P.

19. Many references to codes have appeared in captured documents, and it is evident that the M.C.P. are fully aware of the desirability of coding such items as wireless skeds, names, and in some cases, whole messages.

- (a) In a captured letter written by to the following sentence appeared:-

"Times, signal calls and codes are to be as before"

- (b) The wireless intercept by on 20th January, 1950, contained two, three and four figure groups spoken in or

- (i) The two and three figure groups appeared on some occasions to be substitutes for personal names or identities.

e.g. (In Mandarin) "I 205 have sent 50 letters and I have sent 2,305. Inform and

- (c) However, in the intercept by on 23rd January, 1950, again containing two, three and four figure groups, the two figure code could refer to persons or goods.

- (d) During August, 1953, a document was recovered containing references to a System of codes, apparently for use in courier despatches between

- (i) Code words used by Central for dates . e.g. KAM for 1; CHOU for 2, etc.
HUK for month; HOONG for day.

- (ii) Code for c.c.c. numbers used by LOO MENG of the Politburo:-

J E R O P A Q N I S
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0

- (iii) Code for c.c.c. numbers presumably used by the Johore State Secretariat/Committee:-

A D E G I L O P U T
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0

- (e) In documents recovered from and Mention was made to the use of a "Four Corners Numbers " Code. This code makes use of the method of reference used in dictionaries. To operate this code the reference to the appropriate character appearing in the dictionary is chosen and this figure group only is written in the despatch. Decoding is done with the aid of a dictionary of a similar type. Apparently this method was intended for use with courier despatches.

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(f) Another section of diary stated:

"Please inform that he is to find a new code with
....." (Translator's note stated that "code"
probably refers to W/T skeds).

Training of M.C.P. Wireless Operators.

20. Evidence is to hand that during the period August, 1951 - August 1952 the following members of the M.C.P. received instruction in wireless from

(an from whom this information was obtained)

21. has reported that the following C.T. both claimed to be able to operate a wireless set:-

22. The following extract from a letter was found on a courier captured in Singapore, and was addressed to JOHORE Bureau from the M.C.P. Committee Singapore:-

"Some comrades here are specialised in the wireless technique and they can manufacture receiving and transmitting sets. Under permissible circumstances if we wish to contact each other with wireless we are able to do so (the major problem rests on your side). If the organisation wishes to have these cadres they can be transferred and it is up to the organisation to allocate work to them"

23. Reference is also made in a document received from S.B. that a C.T. had been transferred back to as she had been unsuccessful in learning wireless.

Conclusions.

24. Although as yet no transmitting sets in first class condition have been captured from the M.C.P., the references to sets in paras 2-9 indicates that such sets may be in their possession. Certainly there appears to be no doubt that commercial receivers are being used to listen to broadcasted information from Communist sources, and possibly from M.C.P. transmitters.

25. The frequent references to wireless skeds and wireless sets in paras 10-15 seems to point to established M.C.P. wireless links within Malaya and although most of the information concerns dates in 1952 and early 1953. However, no transmissions picked up by our search operators have been identified as M.C.P. at time of writing

26. The intercept mentioned in para 18 still needs further investigation in the light of the interest in it shown by the Federation Authorities.

27. The frequencies mentioned in captured documents are as follows:-

4243, 5861, 5838, 7000, 7014, 7028, 9375 K/cs

1.1 - 1.5, 5.- 7.5 M/cs

32 metres (approximately 10 M/cs.) and consequently the search for M.C.P. transmissions are, in the main, confined to 4 - 8 M/cs.

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28. That the M.C.P. is alive to the importance and usefulness of wireless communication is evident from material in 20-22 paras, and if in fact no transmissions have been made to date it is probably due to lack of suitable equipment not operators.
29. One point brought out once again by this review is the importance of close liaison between GCO and S.B., as well as other departments, so that information obtained may be quickly passed on to the appropriate authorities to enable maximum use to be made of it.

D. P. Nicholls Cpt.