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~~SECRET COMINT CHANNELS~~

FOR ADD

DRAFT ON PUBLICITY

REF: TELECON

PUBLICITY (UNDERLINED)

13. THE GOVERNMENT NOTED IN ITS CONSIDERATION OF THE CABINET SUBMISSION THAT MINIMAL PUBLICITY WAS PROPOSED AND THAT THE MINISTER FOR DEFENCE WOULD RELEASE, AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME, A STATEMENT.

14. BASED ON EXPERIENCE, IT IS ASSESSED THAT IT IS IMPRACTICAL TO KEEP KNOWLEDGE OF THE ACQUISITION IF SUCH A COMPUTER SECRET. A BRIEF PUBLIC STATEMENT ACKNOWLEDGING THE PROPOSED ACQUISITION IS INTENDED PRIMARILY TO FORESTALL PRESS SPECULATION AND COMMENT.

15. THE PUBLIC STATEMENT COULD EITHER DECLARE THAT THE COMPUTER WILL BE "USED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE FOR TASKS CONNECTED WITH NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE" OR THAT IT WILL BE "USED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE FOR CLASSIFIED PURPOSES" (TOGETHER WITH SOME RIDING COMMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT IT IS NOT PROPOSED TO PROVIDE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION).

16. SHOULD THE STATEMENT INDICATE THAT THE APPLICATION IS SIMPLY FOR CLASSIFIED PURPOSES,

17. IF THE STATEMENT REFERS TO ITS INTELLIGENCE USE, THERE WILL STILL BE SOME SPECULATION AS TO ITS USER, BUT WITH DSD AND JIO AS THE ONLY INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES IN DEFENCE, IT IS EXPECTED THAT IT WILL BE QUICKLY LINKED TO DSD AND ITS CODE-BREAKING APPLICATION COVERTLY ESTABLISHED. THERE IS SOME RISK THAT SUCH PRESS SPECULATION WILL ENCOURAGE COUNTRIES THAT PERCEIVE THEMSELVES TO BE TARGETS TO MAINTAIN EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THEIR COMMUNICATIONS SECURITY. IN LINE WITH THE ESTABLISHED PRINCIPLE OF NEITHER CONFIRMING NOR DENYING SPECULATION ON INTELLIGENCE MATTERS, HOWEVER, NO FURTHER STATEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE PROPOSED.

18. ON BALANCE THE STATEMENT REFERRING TO ITS USE FOR NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE IS PREFERRED.

INFORMATION ON THE COMPUTER SYSTEM CONFIGURATION WILL BE GIVEN APPROPRIATE SECURITY PROTECTION TO PREVENT DETAILED ASSESSMENTS BEING MADE OF CAPABILITY.

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