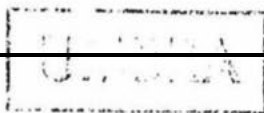


TOP SECRET



Copy to: DDI, ADI, ADP
Shawto: omc

ADD.

Q/5120QP/1005/4

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Senior British Officer (M)
DSD

29 June 1989

WORKSTATION STANDARDISATION AND CRYPTANALYTIC WORKSTATIONS

- References:
- a. SBO/5470/4/1Q of 26 April 1989
 - b. Q/5077QP/1005/4 of 19 May 1989 and attachments
 - c. H/7064GH/1010/45 of 9 June 1989 - copy attached
 - d. SBO/5483/4/1Q of 13 June 1989

1. It was very pleasant to receive your reply, ref d, and it is encouraging that we all appear willing to move in the same directions. I should comment however that these standardisation issues are almost impossible to enforce absolutely in an era where the pace of advance is so rapid. There are new machines on the market nearly every day and there are always the very clever enthusiasts who can, no doubt correctly in many instances, make a strong case as to why their particular application needs the new feature or additional power. A delicate balance has to be struck between the unassailable benefits of standardisation when weighed against the operational improvements that can actually be realised.

2. Some further documentation is now available from the customer, setting out the requirements for the future, ref c attached, now that they have had some experience of the pilot scheme involving 7 Suns on an Ethernet LAN. As might have been expected there is a demand for colour and the capability to fit special boards together with an element of uncertainty produced by the latest changes to the SUN range although this will certainly be resolved without major impact on the standardisation policy.

3. It also occurs to me that may be interested in our embracing our proposals for a LAN infrastructure for the . I have just seen some draft architectural proposals which have to be considered by the IT Architecture Board and endorsed by the IT Steering Committee before becoming firm policy although they are already being incorporated in the , in both cases under proof-of-concept conditions. If there is interest down under I will send copies once final versions are available.

Revised