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28/3/21



AGENDUM NO. 1 (S)/1965.

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DEFENCE COMMITTEE AGENDUM.

INCREASE IN AUSTRALIAN CONTRIBUTION TO SIGINT RESOURCES
IN MALAYSIA - CONTINGENCY PLANNING.

Further to Defence Committee Minute No. 3(S)/1964,
Joint Intelligence Committee (Sigint/Comsec) Report No. 4/1965
on the above subject is attached for consideration by the
Defence Committee.

(J.J. CORRIGAN)
Secretary
DEFENCE COMMITTEE

9.2.1965.

DISTRIBUTION:

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2 : Mr. E.W. Eicks.
3 : Air Marshal Scherger.
4 : Air Marshal Hancock.
5 : Admiral Harrington
6 : General Wilton.
7 : Sir Arthur Tange.
8 : Mr. P.J. Lawler.
9 : Mr. E.N. Townsend.
10 : Department of Defence File.
11 : Director D.S.D.
12 : Joint Secretaries, J.I.C. (S/C).



M. Done D.S.D.

G.R. RA

*You are requested to prepare briefing notes for
the Secretary on this Agendum please.
I expect it to be listed for Def Ctee
consideration on Thurs. 25 Feb but will
confirm the date after discussion with the Secretary
on this letter.*

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*Submission 9 Feb 65
SDC*

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JOINT INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE(SIGINT/COMSEC)

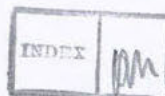
REPORT OF MEETINGS HELD AT ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING, CANBERRA
ON 3RD AND 5TH FEBRUARY, 1965

O.L. Davis, Esq.	Chairman
Captain N.E. McDonald	Director of Naval Intelligence
Commander R.E. Lesh	Director of Communications, RAN
Colonel O.H. Isaksson*	Director of Military Intelligence
Colonel R.P. Woolard	Director of Signals, AMF
Group Captain I.S. Podger, DFC	Director of Air Force Intelligence
Group Captain J.A. Wedell	Director of Telecommunications, RAAF
R. Mathams, Esq.	Representing Director, Joint Intelligence Bureau
D.I. MacLean, Esq.	Department of Defence
R.N. Thompson, Esq., MBE	Director, Defence Signals Division

* Represented by Lieutenant-Colonel K. Whyte at
meeting on 5th February

G.L. Creech, Esq.	} Joint Secretaries
Wing Commander J.J. Lynch, AFC	

REPORT NO. 4/1965



INCREASE IN AUSTRALIAN CONTRIBUTION TO SIGINT
RESOURCES IN MALAYSIA - CONTINGENCY PLANNING

INTRODUCTION

To help meet requirements for Sigint on the Indonesian
threat to Malaysia, approval* was given in May, 1964, for:-

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* See DC Agendum No.3(S)/1964 paragraph 3 (c)
and 3(d)

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2.

- (a) the deployment to Borneo of 38 AMF personnel in order to provide tactical Sigint support. (These personnel consisted of 21 operators already located in Singapore and 17 support personnel to be provided from Australia);
- (b) the raising of the AMF overseas Sigint personnel ceiling to 97, to enable the above deployment to be made.

2. The above manpower requirements were based on the nature and expected level of Indonesian confrontation activities at that time. The threat has subsequently been considerably raised, not only in Borneo (where substantial reinforcement of forces in Kalimantan is in progress), but also in Malaya proper, where there has been a steady increase in penetration sorties, coupled with substantial reinforcement of Indonesian forces in Sumatra.

3. These developments have made it necessary to re-assess the Sigint resources which will be required in Malaysia if overt or greatly increased covert military activities occur, and this report proposes action to meet deficiencies revealed by this re-assessment.

REVISED REQUIREMENTS

4. The existing overseas military Sigint resources concerned comprise:-

- (a) a total of 94 AMF personnel, of whom 60 are stationed in Singapore, 9 in Hong Kong and the balance (25) at the forward site at Labuan;
- (b) a total of 45 British Army members, disposed at Singapore (12), and Kuching (33).

5. It is still considered that the previously approved deployment of 38 AMF personnel to Borneo, coupled with an already agreed reinforcement of British Army resources at Kuching, would meet prospective requirements in Borneo. In Singapore, however, where requirements stemming from the increased threat to Malaya would need to be met, it is assessed that a further 30 Sigint personnel would be needed.

6. This requirement has been discussed and agreed with the collaborating British authorities, who have agreed, on a contingency basis, to provide a further 17 British Army members. The balance of 13 should, we believe, be provided from Australian resources, and the only practicable source of these would be from AMF Sigint operators at present employed at the base station (at Cabarlah, Queensland),

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3.

With present resources, and under peacetime conditions of service, this capability would be of short duration.

7. While the need for Australian reinforcement does not exist at present, it could arise at short notice. We believe therefore that, subject to endorsement of this report, approval should be given for the Army, in consultation with DSD, to carry out part or whole of the reinforcement if the need arises. This would require that the approved ceiling for overseas employment of AMF Sigint personnel should be raised from 97 to 110.

RECOMMENDATION

8. It is recommended that approval be given for an increase in the AMF overseas Sigint ceiling from 97 to 110 (but with no increase in the overall Sigint ceiling) to be implemented should the need arise for a temporary reinforcement of resources in Singapore because of probable Indonesian aggression, subject to:-

- (a) recall of personnel from Singapore should a higher priority need arise;
- (b) the actual number of reinforcements to be provided being decided by the AMF on the grounds of availability;
- (c) the timing and tenure of reinforcements to be decided jointly by the AMF and DSD.

(Sgd) O.L. DAVIS
Chairman
on behalf of the
Joint Intelligence Committee(S/C)

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