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MINUTE BY THE DEFENCE COMMITTEE AT MEETING HELD ON  
THURSDAY, 7TH MAY, 1964

PRESENT

E.W. Hicks, CBE  
Secretary, Department of Defence  
(Chairman)

Air Marshal Sir Frederick Scherger,  
KBE CB DSO AFC  
Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee

Air Marshal Sir Valston Hancock,  
KBE CB DFS  
Chief of the Air Staff

Vice Admiral Sir Hastings Harrington,  
KBE CB DSO  
Chief of the Naval Staff

Lieutenant General Sir  
John Wilton, KBE CB DSO  
Chief of the General Staff

Sir Arthur Tange, CBE  
Secretary,  
Department of External  
Affairs.

C.L.S. Hewitt, OBE  
Representing Secretary to  
the Treasury

R.N. Thompson, MBE, Director Defence  
Signals Division, was also present.

AGENDUM  
NO.2(S)/1964

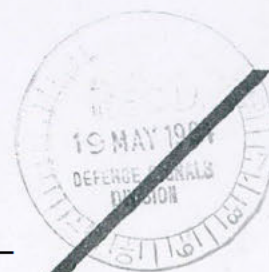
NO.3(S)/1964: REQUEST BY G.C.H.Q. FOR AUSTRALIAN  
TACTICAL SIGINT SUPPORT IN BORNEO

The Committee considered a memorandum by the Director, Defence Signals Division recommending approval of a British proposal for the deployment to Borneo for Tactical Sigint duties of Australian personnel from Singapore, on the understanding that they would be replaced by British personnel from outside the theatre. The Director's memorandum had been endorsed by the Joint Intelligence Committee from the intelligence aspect.

2. The Committee considered that the following amendments should be made to the memorandum:

- (a) in paragraph 4 the figure for the number of members of the parent mainland unit to be transferred from Australia to Singapore/Borneo should be increased from 11 to 17.

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2.

- (b) in paragraphs 3 and 12 the indicated strength of the AMF involvement should be increased from 32 to 38.
- (c) the last two sentences of paragraph 7 should be deleted and replaced by the following: "Under present conditions, it is considered that elements of 201 Squadron should be employed in Borneo rather than held in Singapore against a contingent SEATO commitment. Should a SEATO situation develop there would be no real difficulty in re-deploying the forces from Borneo should this be required by the priorities at that time".

3. The Defence Committee:

- (a) endorsed the memorandum by the Director D.S.D. subject to the amendments in paragraph 2 above;
- (b) directed that, if the proposal is approved, the arrangements for control of the British/Australian Sigint effort in Borneo should be sufficiently flexible to ensure that the intelligence needs of the field Commander should have adequate priority;
- (c) recommended that a self-contained AMF Tactical Sigint troop of 1 officer and 37 other ranks should be despatched to Borneo, with the proviso that initially the troop be deployed at Labuan with a small detachment only at Kuching but that, within the above ceiling, future changes in dispositions of the troop between these two locations may be made by agreement between the Director, Defence Signals Division and the AMF authorities.
- (d) agreed that, if the proposal is approved, the A.M.F. overseas Sigint personnel ceiling should be raised from 80 to 97.
- (e) observed that it is desirable that the movement of the main party from Singapore should be preceded by the take-over there of AMF intercept positions by British civilian operators, but agreed that the timing of the movement from Singapore should be decided by the Director, Defence Signals Division, in full consultation with the AMF authorities,

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3.

- (f) agreed that a technical installation party of one officer and two technicians should be temporarily detached from Australia to Singapore for a period not exceeding two months for installation projects in Kuching and Labuan.
- (g) agreed that detailed arrangements for implementing the proposal should be resolved between the Director D.S.D. and the A.M.F. authorities.

J.J. CORRIGAN  
Secretary  
DEFENCE COMMITTEE  
11th May, 1964

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