

~~SECRET~~

~~INDOCTRINATED RECIPIENTS ONLY~~

4711  
18/4/9  
21  
25

Can REF. NO.: 18/4/9

COPY NO.: 21

JIC(SC) SIGINT SUB-COMMITTEE

AGENDUM NO. SSC/1/65

Declassified by ASD - 09/11/2021  
Information removed for national  
security and/or personal sensitivities

The attached draft paper prepared jointly by the  
Chairman and MIB is for consideration at the meeting of the  
Sigint Sub-Committee on Thursday, 21st January 1965.

*B.W. Collins*  
(B.W. COLLINS)  
SECRETARY

18/1/65

DISTRIBUTION:

1. Chairman, Sigint Sub-Committee
2. D/DNI
3. D/DMI
4. D/DAFI
5. D/D of C., RAN
6. SIGS 8, AMF
7. TELS 2, RAAF
8. Head, Intelligence Co-ordination Branch,  
Dept. of External Affairs
9. Deputy Director, JIB
10. Assistant Controller (Planning)  
R. & D. Dept. of Supply
- 11.
12. Officer-in-Charge, CPS
13. Joint Secretaries, JIC(SC)
14. AD(C), DSD
15. AD(D), DSD
16. Chairman, Communications Security Committee
17. Sqn. Ldr. M. Buchanan
18. Secretary, Sigint Sub-Committee
19. CLO., Canberra
20. QAR
21. QAR

~~INDOCTRINATED RECIPIENTS ONLY~~

~~SECRET~~



~~SECRET~~

Declassified by ASD - 09/11/2021  
Information removed for national  
security and/or personal sensitivities

~~INDOCTRINATED RECIPIENTS ONLY~~

REF. NO.: 18/4/9

POSSIBLE INCREASE IN AUSTRALIAN CONTRIBUTION TO SIGINT  
EFFORT AGAINST INDONESIA SHOULD NEED ARISE

A. SUMMARY

1. The reinforcement by the Indonesians of their troops in KALIMANTAN and SUMATRA and the increasing scale of infiltrations into the Malayan mainland has resulted in a requirement for increased Sigint support which, so far, has been met from available resources. The object of this paper is to seek authority for a small increase in the AMF overseas Sigint manpower ceiling against the contingency of a further deterioration in the situation.

B. DETAILS

2. At their meeting held on 7th May, 1964 the Defence Committee approved<sup>[i]</sup>, inter alia :-

(a) The deployment to BORNEO of 1 Officer and 37 other ranks of the AMF in order to provide tactical Sigint support in BORNEO,

(b) The raising of the AMF overseas Sigint personnel ceiling to 97.

3. The above decisions were later confirmed by both the Minister of Defence and the Minister of External Affairs and were implemented by DSD and the AMF. At present all but one or two of the authorised overseas posts have been filled by the AMF - the great majority of them being in SINGAPORE and BORNEO - and the Sigint Parties in BORNEO (the British at KUCHING, the AMF at LABUAN) have proved invaluable.

4. Since the original decision was taken the situation in MALAYSIA has changed. Indonesian 'confrontation' activities have been stepped up not only in BORNEO where there has been both an actual and planned reinforcement of the Indonesian forces in KALIMANTAN but also in MALAYA where the number of penetrations of the mainland by Indonesian Forces has been steadily increasing. In addition there is a substantial reinforcement of the Indonesian troops in SUMATRA in progress. All of these activities have resulted in increasing demands for Sigint on Indonesia which, up to the present, have been met from the available British and Australian resources in BORNEO and SINGAPORE.

5. The actual and planned reinforcements in KALIMANTAN pose a serious threat to BORNEO the shape of which cannot, as yet, be determined. However, possible action by the Indonesians, which can range from increased infiltrations to large scale, overt attacks, makes it essential that Sigint contingency planning should be completed as soon as possible if the necessary support is to be available as and when required.

Comments: [i] Agendum No. 3(S)/1964, paragraphs 3(C) and 3(D).

~~INDOCTRINATED RECIPIENTS ONLY~~

~~SECRET~~



~~SECRET~~

~~INDOCTRINATED RECIPIENTS ONLY~~

Declassified by ASD - 09/11/2021  
Information removed for national  
security and/or personal sensitivities

- 2 -

REF. NO.: 18/4/9

6. At present only 17 of the 38 AMF personnel authorised for service in BORNEO are deployed there; the remaining 21 are stationed in SINGAPORE where they provide invaluable assistance. It is estimated that to meet the increased Sigint demands consequent upon increased hostile acts by the Indonesians in KALIMANTAN it may be necessary to deploy the whole of the authorised complement to BORNEO.
7. The increased military action against the Malayan mainland and the threat posed by the reinforcement of troops in SUMATRA now in progress has already placed considerable additional Sigint requirements upon the station in SINGAPORE; a reduction in personnel at the station caused by the deployment of the 21 AMF at present serving there to BORNEO would result in an unacceptable loss of valuable Sigint.
8. To meet the possible requirement for additional personnel in BORNEO and, at the same time, to maintain the strength of the SINGAPORE station at its present level it is considered that there should be a temporary increase in the number of AMF operating personnel available for duty in SINGAPORE - the additional personnel to be used to offset the reduction caused by the deployment to BORNEO of the 21 authorised men. It is estimated that an additional thirteen men, the majority of them radio operators, would be sufficient to fill the gap. Such an increase would entail the raising of the present overseas ceiling from the authorised 97 to 110.
9. [REDACTED]
10. It is not possible to forecast if and when the additional personnel will be required, neither is it possible to estimate the length of time for which they would be required. Both of these factors will be determined by the future actions of the Indonesians. Any steps to reinforce the Sigint effort in BORNEO and SINGAPORE will only be taken as contingencies arise; however, as these contingencies can arise with little or no warning, it is considered that all necessary planning should be completed as soon as possible.
11. The U.K. has reinforced the SINGAPORE station with civilian operators as required by the arrangements agreed for the deployment of the AMF to BORNEO and has built up its army operating complement in BORNEO very close to the agreed figure of 31. The UK has now been similarly asked by DSD to consider urgently the posting of further trained army operators to BORNEO against the contingency of an increase being required over the planned figure. DSD believes that the increased Sigint requirements are likely to need these reinforcements both from the UK and Australia.

~~INDOCTRINATED RECIPIENTS ONLY~~

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

Declassified by ASD - 09/11/2021  
Information removed for national  
security and/or personal sensitivities

~~INDOCTRINATED RECIPIENTS ONLY~~

- 3 -

REF. NO.: 18/4/9

C. RECOMMENDATION

12. It is recommended that the Defence Committee be asked to approve, as a matter of urgency, a temporary increase in the AMF overseas Sigint ceiling to 110; this increase to be for a period of one year and thereafter subject to review; the scale and timing of the deployment of these personnel to be for discussion between AMF and DSD.

~~INDOCTRINATED RECIPIENTS ONLY~~

~~SECRET~~