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SIG-8 AMF

HEAD, INTELLIGENCE COORDINATION BRANCH, EA
DEP. DIRECTOR JIB
JOINT SECRETARIES, JIC(SC)
CLO CANBERRA
ASST. CONTROLLER (PLANNING) R AND D. DEPT OF SUPPLY
[REDACTED]
OFFICER IN CHARGE CPS
ZEM



~~TOP SECRET DINAR.~~

THE ATTACHED DRAFT PAPER PREPARED JOINTLY BY CHAIRMAN
JIC(SC) SSC AND MIB IS FOR CONSIDERATION AS AN ADDITIONAL
ITEM(AGENDUM NO SSC/1/65) AT THE MEETING OF JIC(SC)SSC
ON THURSDAY 21ST JANUARY.
TITLE. 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, (AGENDUM NO. 3(S)/1964, PARAGRAPHS 3(C) AND 3(D)) INTER:-

(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, OVER 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.

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 KAL-
IMANTAN 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.

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 UK 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.

... RECOMMENDATION

12. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE DEFENCE COMMITTEE BE ASKED TO APPROVE, AS A MATTER OF URGENCY, A TEMPORARY INCREASE OF 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.

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