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<i>26</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>54</i>

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~~SECRET COMINT CHANNELS~~

FOR DEP SEC (B).

SUPPLEMENT TO PARA 9 OF DSD 32/13/34 OF 15 MAY 1969

THE NEED FOR A NEW NAVAL RECEIVING STATION NEAR DARWIN, TO REPLACE SIGINT AND RAN COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES BEING ENCROACHED ON BY THE GROWTH OF DARWIN, WAS SET OUT IN JIC(SC) REPORT NO. 1/1966. AFTER INITIAL EXAMINATION OF THIS REPORT BY THE DEFENCE COMMITTEE ON 24 NOVEMBER, 1966, THE NEED FOR A NEW STATION WAS ENDORSED AT A FURTHER MEETING ON ¹¹ MAY 1967. THE NEW SITE THEN PROPOSED WAS AT SHOAL BAY, SOME EIGHT MILES NORTH EAST OF DARWIN.

2. WHILE FINAL PLANS FOR THIS STATION WERE BEING DEVELOPED, THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR (WHICH MEANWHILE HAD BECOME RESPONSIBLE FOR ADMINISTRATION OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY) WITHDREW ASSURANCES WHICH THE DEPARTMENT OF TERRITORIES HAD PREVIOUSLY GIVEN THAT SHOAL BAY WOULD BE ^{UN} LIKELY TO BE AFFECTED IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE BY THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF DARWIN. THIS HAS NECESSITATED FURTHER EXTENSIVE INVESTIGATION, WHICH IS BEING CONDUCTED BY THE NAVY AND DEFENCE SIGNALS DIVISION IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT

AND IS UNLIKELY TO BE COMPLETED FOR SOME TIME YET. THIS INVESTIGATION INVOLVES THE EXAMINATION OF SITES MUCH FURTHER REMOVED FROM THE AREA OF POSSIBLE FUTURE EXPANSION OF DARWIN TOWN (INCLUDING THE MANNING AND OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS) AS WELL AS THE POSSIBILITY OF DEVELOPING NEW TECHNOLOGY WHICH MIGHT RELIEVE SOME AT LEAST OF THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN MANNING A REMOTE STATION.

3. AS A RESULT OF THESE COMPLICATIONS, IT HAS BECOME CLEAR THAT PREVIOUS TARGET DATES (1969, THEN THE EARLY 1970'S) CAN NOT BE MET. WE BELIEVE THAT NO SERIOUS DAMAGE WILL BE CAUSED TO SIGINT COLLECTION REQUIREMENTS IF (AS WE NOW ENVISAGE) OPERATION AT A NEW SITE IS NOT DELAYED BEYOND ABOUT 1974.

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