

ENDS ~~*****~~ VZCZCVLA172

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~~SECRET COMINT CHANNELS~~

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FOLLOWING DRAFT AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE

SECRETARY

YOU ASKED ME WHETHER THE SIGINT STATION AT SHOAL BAY WAS
NOW FUNCTIONING AS PLANNED FOLLOWING CYCLONE TRACY,
2. SHOAL BAY SUFFERED RELATIVELY MINOR BUILDING DAMAGE FROM
THE CYCLONE. THE AERIAL SYSTEM WAS DAMAGED AND FLOODING INTER-
FERED WITH THE COMPLETION OF CERTAIN INSTALLATIONS INSIDE THE
MAIN BUILDING. WITHIN DAYS OF THE CYCLONE, HOWEVER, THE STATION
WAS OPERATING ON A LIMITED SCALE.

3. THE STATION IS NOW ON A FULLY OPERATIONAL BASIS. THE EQUIPMENT
INSTALLATION IS VIRTUALLY COMPLETE, WITH FINAL ACCEPTANCE OF THE
NEW AERIAL SYSTEM ANTICIPATED IN JUNE. THE PLANNED [REDACTED]

MID 1977- NEARLY A YEAR LATER THAN PLANNED BECAUSE OF THE
EFFECTS OF CYCLONE TRACY.

4. THE SHOAL BAY SIGINT STATION IS THEREFORE FUNCTIONAL.

IT HAD BEEN PLANNED TO MOVE AN ADDITIONAL 42 ARMY OPERATORS

TO SHOAL BAY BUT DUE TO THE SHORTAGE OF ACCOMMOD-

ATION ONLY 15 OPERATORS ARE BEING MOVED. THE OVERALL STRENGTH

AT SHOAL BAY IS ABOUT 166.

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