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NORTH ATLANTIC MILITARY COMMITTEE

COMITE MILITAIRE DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD

Standing Group

Groupe Permanent

SGM-279-54

29 March 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN, AD HOC CRYPTOGRAPHIC COORDINATION AGENCY

SUBJECT: On-Line Cipher Equipments

Reference: ACCA/11 of 13 Jan 54

1. This is to confirm the statement made by the CECS representative at ACCA's 4th Meeting.

2. The only on-line cipher systems thus far approved for NATO use are the US SIGTOT and the UK 5UCO, both one-time tape systems. All users whom it has been possible to provide with these equipments have been given all the necessary information concerning them. Because of the general lack of availability of these equipments it is not believed that any value would result from a general dissemination of operating and technical information about them. As was pointed out at the third ACCA meeting, however, any nation desiring to learn more about these equipments should consult with SHAPE on SIGTOT's, and with the UK on the 5UCO. Should other on-line equipments be approved for NATO use, all necessary information concerning their technical and operating characteristics, and their availability, will be provided. In the case of ETCRRM, this type of information is now being prepared.

3. With regard to paragraph 2 of the reference, it should be kept in mind that, although desirable, interworkability of different on-line cipher equipments is no more essential than is standardization. Furthermore, there is really no such thing as "basic

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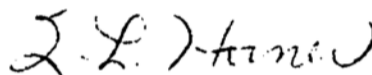
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characteristics of on-line cipher systems" other than the necessity that they be capable of operation with the available teletype and printing equipment, i.e., their output must be of such a nature that the signal apparatus, to which the cipher equipments are attached, can handle it. What is needed, it is believed, is a statement of the requirements which teletype communications place on cryptographic development. Just such a statement is now in preparation.

FOR THE STANDING GROUP:



T. L. HORNER
Commander, USN
Deputy Secretary