

NOV 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Processing Noisy Audio Tapes for Bureau of Narcotics Dangerous Drug Division

1. On 1 November 1971, Mr. Charles Gaskins of the Bureau of Narcotics Dangerous Drug Division called to request the assistance of ORD/CD/S&T to improve the intelligibility of several tape recorded conversations. Mr. Gaskins had been employed by the Agency in the Technical Security Division and had become aware of the speech processing capability in the S&T laboratory through his Agency work. I suggested that he bring the tapes to the laboratory to determine the feasibility of enhancing the subject conversations.

2. On 2 November 1971, Mr. Gaskins appeared at the S&T laboratory with a tape containing a number of conversations recorded through legal wiretapping. The tape was to be used in the prosecution of one of the subject speakers on or about 4 November 1971. A cursory analysis indicated that most of the conversations could be made more intelligible through the processing available in the laboratory. In view of the time critical nature of the request, processing was begun immediately. However, Mr. Gaskins was informed that future processing might need to be handled more formally, i.e., with approval from higher levels within the Agency. If similar requests would be occurring on a frequent basis I suggested that BNDD personnel could be trained in the use of the processing system.

3. The majority of conversations were being masked by discrete frequency components which were multiples of the power line frequency, 60 Hertz. The probable sources of this interference were discussed with Mr. Gaskins and several suggestions—more intensive agent training and the use of pre-recording filters—were offered to minimize the occurrence of this type of noise. The results of the processing were very encouraging. On a subjective basis, both Mr. Gaskins and I felt that the intelligibility of the conversations had been substantially improved.

1 - DC  
1 - [unclear]  
1 - [unclear]  
1 - [unclear]  
1 - [unclear]

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