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Security Information

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Chief, Foreign Intelligence

Assistant Director for Communications

Automatic W/T Device

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RE : Your Memo, Same Subject, Dated 30 April 1953

1. Your expression of interest in the PAMM device as well as your priority placement in development and procurement is appreciated.

2. This Office is currently placing great emphasis on the research into and development of communications aids of the semi-automatic, automatic and high-speed types. The intent, based upon present and projected operations of the Clandestine Services, is to meet two requirements: (a) Rapid agent transmission of a "normal appearing" nature to overcome security hazards inherent in agent time-on-the-air and (b) Reduced operator training time on the part of the agent. While the two conditions are not necessarily related, we believe that both requirements can be satisfied on a simultaneous basis in many cases.

3. The Portable Automatic Morse Machine represents one approach to this problem. As you are aware, the model of the PAMM demonstrated to the FI Operations Officers was a hand-fabricated prototype. This particular prototype has a number of technical flaws. The system, however, is well worth pursuing and we believe that the practical shortcomings can be overcome with further development.

4. Concurrent with the development of the PAMM, we are developing and producing other types of equipment in the automatic/semi-automatic high-speed agent field. The AS-1 system, now in limited internal production currently appears to offer the best and most timely answer to operational requirements. Ten of these units will be completed in July. Four units are destined this summer for field testing and operational use in EUCA and four in ASCA. The AS-1 system is based upon 60 words per minute radio teletype transmission and Hellsreiber (printed tape) reception. The equipment involved is used as an accessory to our standard agent sets.

5. I appreciate your continuing interest in this field and shall be happy to have FI participation in operational tests of these various equipments and techniques. The Office of Communications will, as requested, proceed with PAMM development on a priority basis as requested. Upon completion of a satisfactory prototype we shall, in conjunction with Clandestine Services, establish production figures.

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