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3 June 1946

MEMORANDUM

TO : William L. Langer  
Special Assistant to the  
Secretary of State

FROM : William W. Quinn, Col. Inf.  
Director

SUBJECT: State Department Cables

This document has been  
approved for release through  
the HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM of  
the Central Intelligence Agency.

Date 17 JAN 91

HRP 89-2

1. It is requested that this agency be authorized to have access to intelligence cables received from State Department representatives abroad. It is proposed that an officer from this headquarters be allowed to examine incoming cables daily and to extract or to paraphrase those cables, or portions of cables, likely to be of interest to this agency, and to make a copy of such extract or paraphrase for the Director's office.

2. As you are aware, such a service was regularly in effect during the period of OSS, and was continued for SSU until February of this year. Primary responsibility for the extraction of material from cables rested with the R & A Branch which made a copy available to the SI Branch. Security arrangements called for the retention of single copies of cables under strict control as laid down by the Chief SI. Similar controls would be established by the Director in the event that the service was reinstated.

3. It is unnecessary to point out to you that the reports were, and would be again, of immense value to this organization. At the same time, they would enable this agency to provide more effective service for the State Department. Specifically, the Department cables would provide authoritative material on current situations abroad which would be extremely useful in (a) appraising our own incoming reports; (b) enabling SSU to avoid duplication and overlapping in coverage; (c) pointing up specific areas and topics on which SSU might undertake to provide coverage; and (d) assisting in the planning of operations.

William W. Quinn, Col. Inf.  
Director

WPH:BJ

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