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SENIOR INTERAGENCY GROUP (INTELLIGENCE)
INTERAGENCY GROUP/COUNTERMEASURES (POLICY)
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

DCI/ICS 0894-87

6 JUL 1987

Sven E. Holmes, Staff Director
Select Committee on Intelligence
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Holmes:

This letter is to inform the Select Committee on Intelligence of the background and initiatives under way to address circumstances which have, in part, significant physical security implications. In summary:

- o New technology has reduced the protection provided by GSA-approved, three-position combination locks from the established standard of [redacted] hours delay against undetectable entry to something under [redacted] hours. [redacted]
- o The IG/CM(P) has initiated several courses of action to activate the involvement of appropriate government agencies in resolving the lock situation. These initiatives include:
 - Sponsoring a quick-reaction, informal threat assessment among key agencies. The assessment concluded that the vulnerability to this potential threat is greatest overseas vice within the United States.
 - Contributing to a proposed change to the Information Security Oversight Office (ISOO) directive that increases the minimum standards for protection of Top Secret material stored overseas (Enclosure 1).
 - Aiding ISOO in the preparation of a classified notice to senior government officials that advises of the technical vulnerability and suggests low-cost initiatives to supplement the protection afforded to stored classified information (Enclosure 2).
 - Developing a draft press release to be used only on a contingency basis.

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- Tasking the Physical Security Committee to monitor, for the IG/CM(P), efforts under way by cognizant bodies to further identify and quantify combination lock vulnerabilities, develop new test standards and Federal specifications, as well as propose both interim and long term/permanent technical solutions. [redacted]

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These conclusions and actions have resulted from initiatives taken to stay current with modern technology. The Interagency Advisory Committee on Security Equipment (IACSE), chaired by the General Services Administration (GSA), sponsored a study on the manipulation resistance of GSA-approved, three-position combination locks. Three independent contractors tested such combination locks manufactured by Mosler, LaGard, and Sargent and Greenleaf. The results of the tests showed that recent advances in technology could be used to defeat these combination locks surreptitiously, effectively reducing the degree of lock protection provided. The current GSA standard requires [redacted] hours of delay against manipulation. The use of computers and other technically enhanced manipulation techniques permitted penetration within [redacted] hours. [redacted]

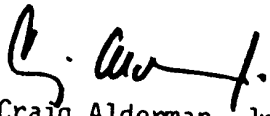
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The IG/CM(P) will continue to monitor and coordinate the resolution of this issue. Your committee staff will be kept apprised of significant developments. [redacted]

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Sincerely,


 Craig Alderman, Jr.
 Chairman

Enclosures

1. Changes to IS00 Directive Number One
2. IS00 Notification to Senior Government Officials

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SUBJECT: Letter to SSCI re Locks

D/CCISCMO/ICS:RGMyers:emc: 2001 (6 July 1987)

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