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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL INTELLIGENCE
DIRECTIVE NO. 6¹

SIGNALS INTELLIGENCE

(Effective 17 February 1972)

Signals Intelligence (SIGINT), which comprises Communications Intelligence (COMINT) and Electronics Intelligence (ELINT), and the activities pertaining thereto are national responsibilities and must be so organized and managed as to exploit to the maximum the available resources of the Government, to satisfy the intelligence needs of the National Security Council and the departments and agencies of the Government, and to provide for efficiency and economy in the use of technical resources. Therefore, pursuant to the National Security Act of 1947, as amended, the National Security Council authorizes and directs that SIGINT activities shall be conducted as prescribed herein.

1. Definitions

For the purpose of this directive, the terms "Communications Intelligence" or "COMINT" shall be construed to mean technical and intelligence information derived from foreign communications by other than the intended recipients.

COMINT activities shall be construed to mean those activities that produce COMINT by the collection and processing of foreign communications passed by radio, wire or other electromagnetic means, with specific exceptions stated below, and by the processing of foreign encrypted communications, however transmitted. Collection comprises search, intercept and direction finding. Processing comprises range estimation, transmitter/operator identification, signal analysis, traffic analysis, cryptanalysis, decryption, study of plain text, the fusion of these processes, and the reporting of results.

COMINT and COMINT activities as defined herein shall not include (a) any intercept and processing of unencrypted written communications, press and propaganda broadcasts, or (b) censorship.

ELINT activities are defined as the collection (observation and recording), and the processing for subsequent intelligence purposes, of information derived from foreign, non-communications, electromagnetic radiations emanating from other than atomic detonation or radioactive sources. ELINT is the technical and intelligence information product of ELINT activities.

2. The Director of Central Intelligence

Consistent with his responsibilities as set forth in NSCID Nos. 1, 2 and 3, the Director of Central Intelligence shall:

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by B. Reger, National Security Council

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REPORT
ON
INQUIRY INTO
CIA-RELATED
ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE
ACTIVITIES

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/19/03 BY 60322 UCBAW/STP

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EXEMPT FROM GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
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(While the President does not attend every NSC meeting, the NSCIDs distributed to the field obviously do not reflect the President's attendance record nor the extent of his personal participation in the promulgation of any particular directive.)

NSCID 6, effective February 17, 1972, provides in pertinent part:

3. The Secretary of Defense

- a. The Secretary of Defense is designated as Executive Agent of the Government for the conduct of SIGINT* activities in accordance with the provisions of this directive and for the direction, supervision, funding, maintenance and operation of the National Security Agency. The Director of the National Security Agency shall report to the Secretary of Defense and shall be the principal SIGINT adviser to the Secretary of Defense, the Director of Central Intelligence, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The Secretary of Defense may delegate in whole or part authority over the Director of the National Security Agency within the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

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4. The National Security Agency

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- b. It shall be the duty of the Director of the National Security Agency to provide for the SIGINT mission of the United States, to establish an effective unified organization and control of all SIGINT collection and processing activities of the United States, and to produce SIGINT in accordance with objectives, requirements and priorities established by the Director of Central Intelligence Board. No other organization

*NSCID 6 defines SIGINT to include communications intelligence (COMINT).

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HANDLE VIA COMINT CHANNELS

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shall engage in SIGINT activities except as provided for in this directive.

- c. Except as provided in paragraphs 5 and 6 of this directive, [re unique responsibilities of CIA and FBI] the Director of the National Security Agency shall exercise full control over all SIGINT collection and processing activities.

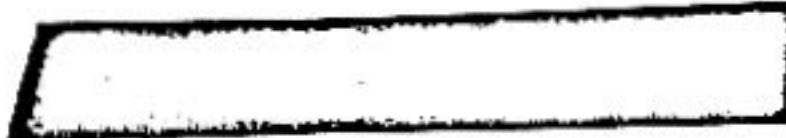
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The Director of the National Security Agency is authorized to issue direct to any operating elements engaged in SIGINT operations such instructions and assignments as are required. All instructions issued by the Director under the authority provided in this paragraph shall be mandatory, subject only to appeal to the Secretary of Defense.

- e. The Armed Forces and other departments and agencies often require timely and effective SIGINT. The Director of the National Security Agency shall provide information requested, taking all necessary measures to facilitate its maximum utility. As determined by the Director of the National Security Agency or as directed by the Secretary of Defense, the Director of the National Security Agency shall provide such SIGINT

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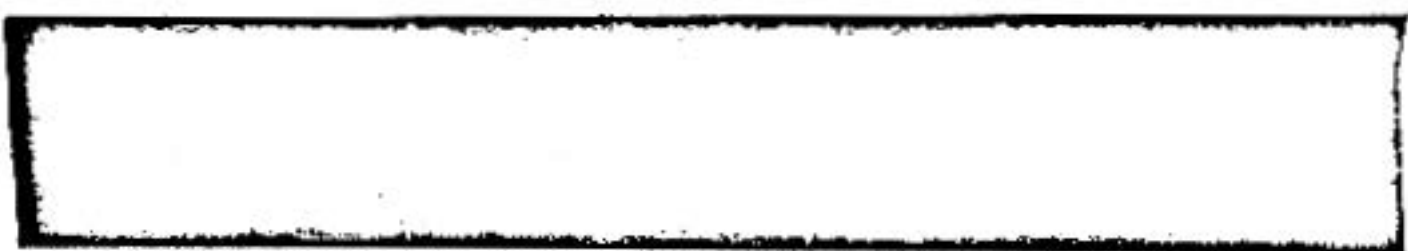


- g. The intelligence components of individual departments and agencies may continue to conduct direct liaison with the National Security Agency in the interpretation and amplification of requirements and priorities within the framework of objectives, requirements and priorities established by the Director of Central Intelligence. (Emphasis added.)

NSCID 9 July 1
 " 9 Dec 29
 NSCID 6 July 15
 " 6 Jan 18
 " 6 Oct 17

The foregoing NSCID 6 superceded NSCID 6 dated September 15, 1958 and revised January 18, 1961 which, in turn, superceded NSCID 9 dated July 1, 1948 and revised December 29, 1952. There has been no fundamental change since September 15, 1958 in the definitions and duties set forth in pertinent part above. Paragraph 4b is a rephrasing of the old Paragraph 6; Paragraph 4e of old Paragraph 7c; and Paragraph 4c of the old 7a.

Prior to the issuance of NSCID 6 on September 15, 1958, its predecessor, NSCID 9, dated July 1, 1948, contained the following definitions:



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