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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

~~TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE~~

August 15, 1974

National Security Decision Memorandum 266

TO: The Secretary of Defense

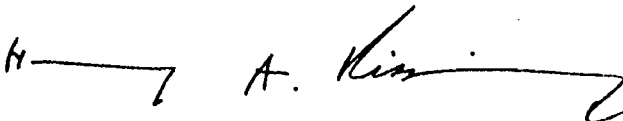
SUBJECT: Improved Security of Telecommunications

The President has been informed of the opportunities for Soviet interception of critical unencrypted Government telephone conversations which may be carried on Washington area microwave links. He has directed that immediate defensive steps be taken to counter this situation.

In that connection, he has directed that you develop, in coordination with the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs and the Director of the Office of Telecommunications Policy, a specific program designed to reduce significantly the opportunities for such interception.

The program should include near term interim measures including steps to route critical Government communications on cables or wire lines until well out of the Washington area. It also should propose more comprehensive long term measures including but not limited to expansion of the availability of secure telephones useable over standard telephone lines, and alternative programs for securing the microwave links in the Washington area. Program definition for both near term and longer term proposals should include technical descriptions, costs, and scheduling information assuring highest priorities.

Details as to specific near term interim measures which can be or are being instituted and the specific dates on which they will become effective should be submitted to the President for his consideration not later than October 1, 1974. Details of longer term measures for this program should be submitted for the President's consideration not later than January 1, 1975.


Henry A. Kissinger

cc: The Deputy Secretary of State
The Director, Office of Management and Budget
The Director of Central Intelligence
The Director, Office of Telecommunication Policy

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Authority NSC 6446, 4/16/96

By lt NLF Date 4/7/97

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526 (as amended) SEC 3.3

MR# 07-111: #4

NSC Letter 7/15/11

By del NARA, Date 9/13/11

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

INFORMATION

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE

December 17, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER *K*

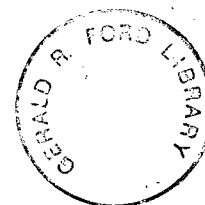
SUBJECT: NSDM 266 *NSDM*

You may recall that shortly after you took office this fall, I advised you that the Soviet Union was actively intercepting US government telephone conversations carried by microwave in the Washington area, principally from the Soviet Embassy, but probably from other sites as well. The volume of intercept was quite large, and since sensitive information from key government agencies could be readily derived from aggregation and analysis of these conversations, I recommended that you approve a NSDM directing corrective action. NSDM 266 directed the Secretary of Defense to take immediate steps to reduce opportunities for Soviet intercept of government telephone communications via microwave in the Washington area. Near term actions were to be identified by October 1, and longer term measures by January 1.

The October response identified 10,000 leased government circuits terminating in the Washington area for which protection seemed prudent. About 4,000 of these circuits are now on microwave and exploitable, and the remaining 6,000 are already on cable but must be tagged to see that they remain there.

We have already initiated action to move the radio circuits to cable beginning in December. Initial estimates are that the entire moving/tagging process will be complete by next August, but we are working closely with AT&T management to accelerate this schedule. A much earlier completion date should be possible. Work on longer term measures to more thoroughly eliminate significant Soviet intercept opportunities is continuing and seems to be on schedule for a January 1 submission.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

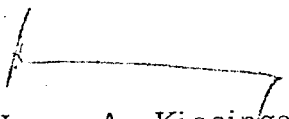
WASHINGTON

December 17, 1974

Dear Bill:

I have recently been apprised of near term actions taken in response to NSDM 266, and of your personal efforts in support of this action. I wanted to let you know that I am extremely pleased with the rapid progress that has been achieved, and to express my sincere appreciation for your major contribution to this progress.

Best regards,



Henry A. Kissinger

Dr. William O. Baker
Vice President for Research
Bell Telephone Laboratories
Murray Hill, New Jersey 07971

dispatched for WB 12-17-74



TOP SECRET / SENSITIVEACTION
6082X

December 12, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR:

SECRETARY KISSINGER

FROM:

GORDON O. MOE *GM*

THROUGH:

RICHARD KENNEDY *CK*

SUBJECT:

Presidential Summary of NSDM 266
Status

Ref:

Action 5860X

Attached per your request are:

- A revised memorandum to the President summarizing status of NSDM 266 actions (Tab A).
- A letter thanking Dr. Baker for his assistance on this matter (Tab B).

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 13526 (as amended) SEC 3.3

MR # 07-111; #10NSC 420 7/15/11By dae NARA, Date 9/3/11TOP SECRET / SENSITIVE

XGDS 3

Classified by: Gordon Moe