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NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY  
FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND 20755

26 March 1974

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SUBJECT: Draft NRO Message re TOPHAT Operations

TO: Office of the Chief of Naval Operations  
Undersea Warfare Division  
Washington, D.C. 20350  
ATTN: CDR R.E. Phillips, USN (OPNAV OP-009U)

1. The proposed guidelines for [ ] access for TOPHAT personnel as set forth in paragraph three of reference are satisfactory to NSA.

2. Personnel not granted [ ] access but cleared for TK/E (paragraph 4, applies) need not be cleared for SI as long as the communications nature of the signal is not disclosed. If the communications nature of the signal is disclosed, an SI clearance is required. Information that the U.S. intercepts [ ] should carry a minimum classification of SECRET HVCCO.

3. Precedent for the above was set several years ago when parametric data on certain [ ] signals were released by NSA to CNO at the SECRET non-codeword level for contractor use.

*Charles R. Lord*

CHARLES R. LORD  
Chief, Office of Operations & Reporting  
National SIGINT Reporting  
and Operations Center

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