

The Director

December 3, 1952

Executives Conference

J U N E

RUSSIAN MICROPHONE DEVICES
IN U. S. EMBASSIES ABROAD
ESPIONAGE - R

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On December 3 the Conference composed of Messrs. Tolson, Ladd, Nichols, Glavin, Belmont, Mason, Gearty, Mohr, Tracy, Holloman, Rosen and Harbo was advised of the recommendation by Mr. Conrad of the Laboratory that certain radio signal generators be obtained which would make it possible to conduct searches to locate the new type microphone employed by the Russians in the American Embassy in Moscow. Mr. Conrad's recommendation is based on the possibility that we may receive requests to conduct such security checks from the White House, Atomic Energy Commission and other agencies for which we have made microphone security checks in the past. It is absolutely impossible to make searches for the new type microphone without the equipment which Mr. Conrad proposes be purchased at this time. One set of the necessary equipment would cost approximately \$1,200 and the two sets recommended by Mr. Conrad would cost approximately \$2,400.

It was pointed out to the Conference that radio signal generators specially designed for this purpose would be superior in some respects to the equipment presently available on the commercial market. However, it would be more expensive and it may be some time before such special equipment is designed and constructed. Mr. Ladd mentioned that Bryan LaPlante of the Atomic Energy Commission recently indicated the possibility that AEC will undertake to construct units for their own use and for other agencies that had a need for this equipment.

Mr. Harbo felt that one set of the radio signal generator equipment necessary to make searches for the new type Russian microphone should be purchased for use by the Laboratory. This is based on the belief that the Bureau will receive requests for this type of security check especially since the President instructed that the technical phases of the examination of the microphone be handled by the FBI.

The remainder of the Conference felt that although the Laboratory eventually should have equipment of this type that no purchase should be made at this time due to the shortage of funds and the possibility that equipment might become available through the Atomic Energy Commission in the next several months.

Respectfully,
For the Conference

cc - Mr. H. H. Clegg
Mr. Mohr

105-19581-77X1
Clyde Tolson

RTH:VH

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ENCLOSURE

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