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NORTH ATLANTIC MILITARY COMMITTEE
COMITE MILITAIRE DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD

Standing Group

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SGM-586-58

Per Authority IMSM-431-99

11 September 1958

By JACOURE Date 10-12-99

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE NORWEGIAN MILITARY REPRESENTATIVE

SUBJECT: Issue of Cryptomaterial to Merchant Ships

References: a. Norw. MR ltr No. JNR. 533/346.41/58 of
29 Mar 58
b. SGM-560-54

1. Reference a points out the difficulties being encountered by the Royal Norwegian Navy in carrying out its responsibilities in complying with reference b. These difficulties are ascribed to the following restrictions in SGM-560-54:

a. Security clearance of officers and men required to train in or operate MERSEX.

b. MERSEX training in a military establishment.

The following clarification may help to ease the difficulties being experienced in the interpretation and application of the SGM.

2. Regarding a above, both paragraph 2 and paragraph 4b of the SGM are based on the principles that certification is a national responsibility and that cryptographic information and material should be available to such officers and men as need them to carry out their duties in national or allied interests. It is appreciated that in the case of individuals who require to be given access to MERSEX cryptomaterial, administrative reasons make it difficult, if not impossible, to make the extensive investigation normally required in security clearing users of NATO cryptomaterial. It is therefore the intention of SGM-560-54 to leave discretion to each

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nation to make whatever arrangements for certification it considers practicable, bearing in mind the requirement for trustworthiness on the part of such individuals. Normally in the case of the Master of a ship a simple procedure may suffice for purposes of certification. If his company is prepared to guarantee his trustworthiness this should be enough to establish his credentials. If his credentials cannot be easily established or if there is any doubt about his credentials, an appropriate naval authority will need to decide whether the operational requirement justifies cryptomaterial being entrusted to his charge. In the case of a person to be trained in the use of MERSEX or to be employed on cryptographic duties, if the Master or the company under which he serves considers him trustworthy and there is nothing known against him which may raise doubts about his reliability, this will meet the requirement of paragraph 4b of the SGM.

3. As regards the other problem, that is, the carrying out of training in a military establishment, this may be interpreted in the context of SGM-560-54 as meaning any establishment where training is carried out under military auspices. Such an interpretation will presumably make possible the solution described in paragraph 4 of reference a.

FOR THE STANDING GROUP:

JHE/wlm


J. H. EAMAN
Colonel, Canadian Army
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