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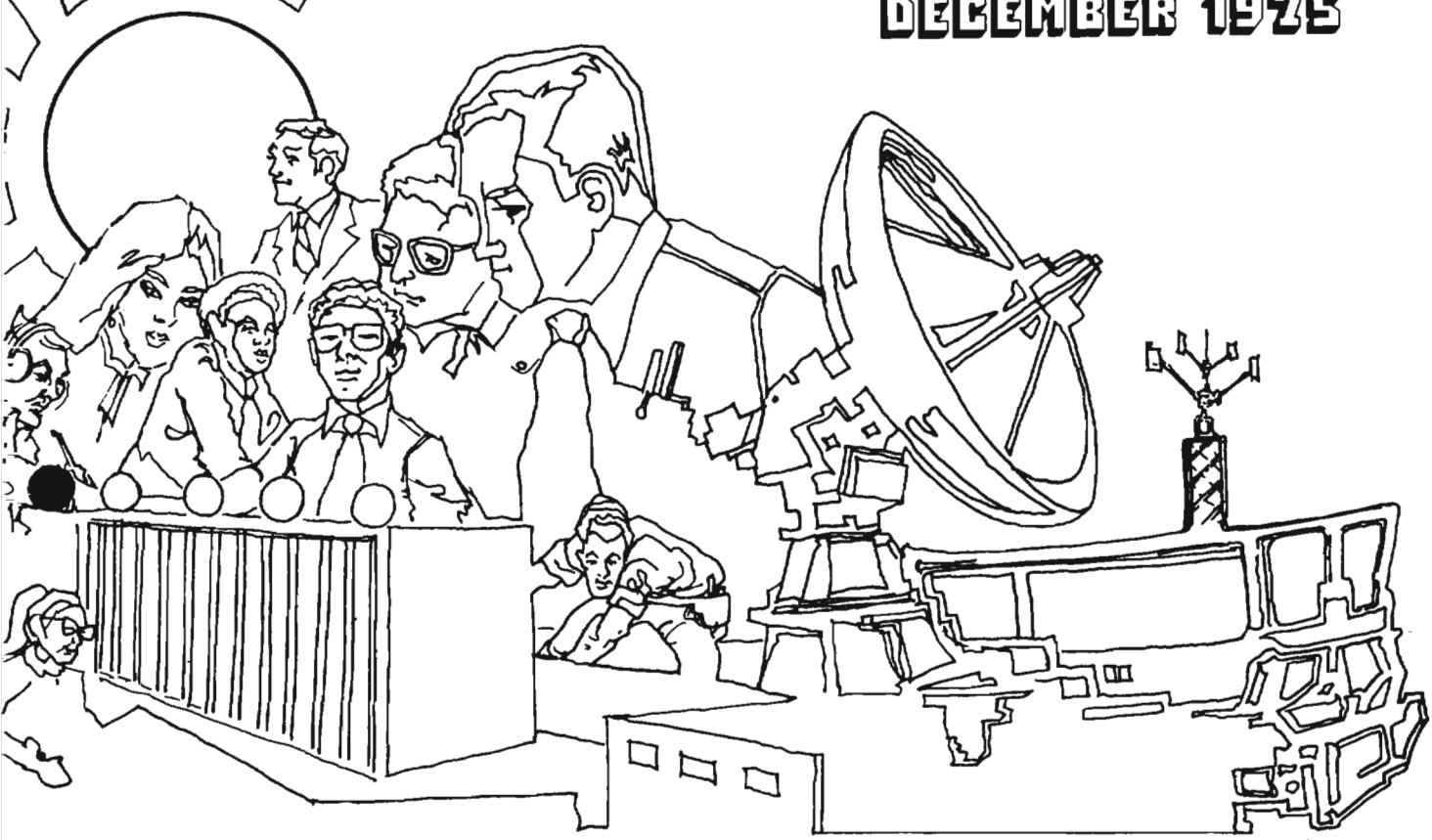

P.L. 86-36

WINTERBOTHAM'S "THE ULTRA SECRET":
A PERSONAL COMMENT.....Brigadier John H. Tiltman..1
WEAPON THAT HELPED DEFEAT NAZIS.....P. W. Filby.....3
MUM'S STILL THE WORD!.....[redacted].....5
LINEAR RECURSIVE SEQUENCES.....[redacted].....6
CUMULATIVE INDEX, 1974-1975.....9
GREAT SOVIET SHIPBUILDING MYSTERY.....David H. Williams.....21
WHAT ARE WE ABOUT?.....[redacted].....23
LINGUISTS FROM THE MELTING POT.....[redacted].....25
CLA ESSAY CONTEST; CAA NEWS.....27

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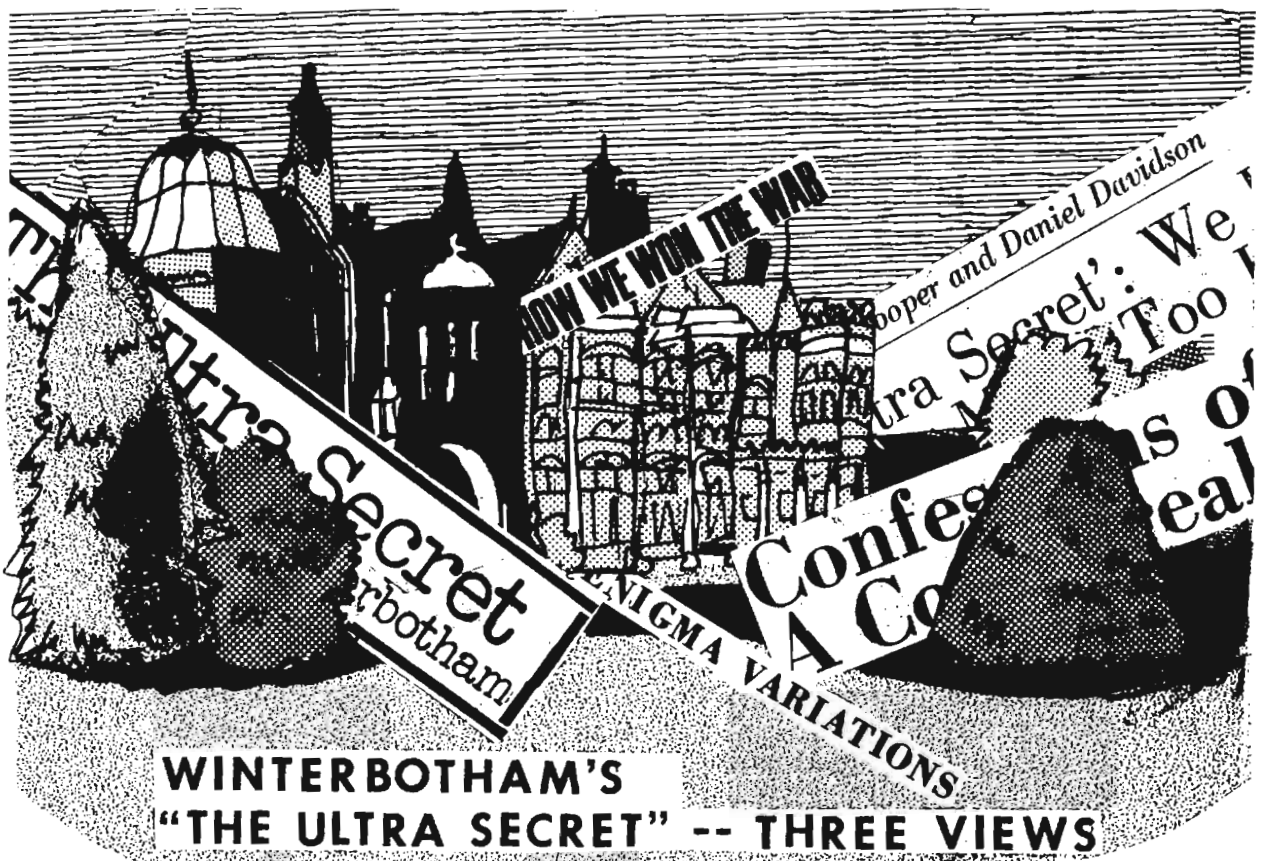

WINTERBOTHAM'S "THE ULTRA SECRET" -- THREE VIEWS

The following three articles deal in various ways with the publicity given in the British and American press and on television to F. W. Winterbotham's book "The Ultra Secret." The first article, by Brigadier John H. Tiltman, deals with the accuracy of the statements in the book and the degree of harm done by them. The second article, by P. W. Filby, is a review of the book as assessed by a member of the team of specialists who worked the German diplomatic problem. The third article, by [redacted] M542, gives a word of advice to those who might now be tempted to tell everything they know.

P.L. 86-36

A PERSONAL COMMENT
By Brigadier John H. Tiltman, P1

When Winterbotham's book was first published late in 1974 in England, some members of NSA who had served at Bletchley Park during World War II, on reading early reviews, assumed that it was officially authorised. This was definitely not the case. Its publication was strenuously opposed by British responsible authorities, who took legal advice on the probable consequences of prosecuting the author under the British Official Secrets Act. They were advised that prosecution could not be effective without the case going to court and evidence produced that British national security had been damaged by the book's publication with consequent public disclosure of more current intelligence activities. They therefore decided that legal action would probably do more harm than good.

Another and perhaps a decisive factor making prosecution unlikely to succeed was the publication in France in 1973 of Bertrand's book *Enigma, ou La Plus Grande Enigme de la Guerre 1939-1945*. This revealed for the first time the fact of an analytic success against the Enigma and was decisive in the discussions between Deputy Director NSA and Director GCHQ on the matter of whether to attempt to restrain Winterbotham and his publisher.

I am not alone in believing that an early official public description (perhaps a joint US-UK statement) of the basic facts of the wartime exploitation of the intelligence derived from the solution of the Enigma keys might have mitigated the damage done to security. Perhaps this could have been strengthened by a further

statement that the revelation of technical details of the methods of solution would be resisted indefinitely. I realise however that there must be other valid arguments which persuaded the responsible authorities not to take such action.

I myself took no part in the solution of Enigma keys in Huts 6 and 8, nor in its exploitation in Hut 3, but I am, I believe, the only person around who was on the directorate level at Bletchley Park during the war and had a hand in many of the policy decisions made regarding the production and use of the intelligence derived.

The book is poorly written and very inaccurate in some areas where I know the facts. The references to the early history of Enigma solution and to the activities of the staff of Hut 6 (who performed the cryptanalytic part of the enterprise) are hopelessly wrong. It is difficult to understand how the author who had considerable responsibilities for the organisation and distribution of Enigma intelligence could have been so completely ignorant of the technical side of the operation. He doesn't know the difference between the Enigma (a rotor machine), other German ciphers, the Japanese high-grade diplomatic machine (the "Purple," a totally different kind of machine), and the Japanese Fleet general cipher (a codebook and additive hand system). His remarks about the "Bronze Goddess" appear to be a complete invention.

Some people gather the impression when they read the book that the author greatly magnifies his own part in the winning of the war. I give an example from my own experience. To quote some passages, "It was at this point that Menzies told me he had decided to hand over my shadow OKW in Hut 3 to the General Administration at Bletchley. One never knew where one stood with Menzies. He softened the pill by confirming me as his deputy, . . ." (p. 87). "Despite the loss of my personal control of Hut 3 and the shadow OKW, I still had direct access to it when required. I was never told by Menzies the real reasons for the takeover, . . ." (p. 92). The facts are that I reported to the Director of Military Intelligence at the War Office, that Curtis, the War Office representative in Hut 3, in conjunction with Humphries, the corresponding Air Force representative, had on two separate occasions gone behind my back to recommend reorganisation of Hut 3 under their own more direct control. In consequence, a SIGINT Board meeting was called with General Menzies in the chair and consisting of the three Service Directors of Intelligence and Director GCHQ. At this meeting it was decided to withdraw Humphries, Curtis, and the naval representative.

I knew Winterbotham slightly and flew with him to Paris on the occasion of one of my official visits to France in 1940. His outstanding achievement was the establishment of SLUs (special liaison units) for the dissemination of ULTRA to commanders in the field. I have no reason to doubt that he records this faithfully. He gives rise to feelings of discomfort, however, when he describes his relations with the more high-ranking recipients of his wares. It appears that Montgomery must have treated him with less courtesy than others and consequently he feels sure he himself could have fought Montgomery's battles far more efficiently!

In view of its general inaccuracy, especially when touching on technical matters, I believe the book, taken by itself, does no harm. This cannot be said for the side effects it touched off. The first review I read was in the *Washington Post* by Al Friendly, who himself served in Hut 3. He headlines his review "Confessions of a Codebreaker." He gives the impression that for a great part of the war every telegraphic order issued by Hitler was currently on the desk of the Prime Minister and concerned Allied commanders. This is simply not true. Such a picture takes no account of the many difficulties of the operation, the decisions to be taken on insufficient evidence as to priorities of attack on some keys to the exclusion of others, the many failures and delays, the early misunderstanding as to the real meaning of messages, etc. The general success of the project was as much a triumph of organisation of the large-scale attack as of the ingenuity and persistence of the cryptanalysts, especially the mathematicians.

Perhaps the most objectionable of the reviews was a long article in one of the London Sunday newspapers by Peter Calvocoressi. He was an important figure in Hut 3, presumably recruited by Winterbotham. He is now, I believe, managing director of Penguin Books and was the joint author of a distinguished history of World War II. His article is an extremely well-written description of life in Hut 3, but he has gone further than anyone else in including a photograph of the German Service Enigma and in mentioning the Bombe. I believe this was the first time a picture of the service Enigma appeared in public print. Not even Bertrand in his book *Enigma* gives a photograph of the machine. I am quite unable to understand Calvocoressi's arrogant assumption that he can say what he likes in public now that Winterbotham's book has appeared. I hold the view that everyone who worked in Bletchley Park is still under a moral obligation not to disclose secrets not previously published without official permission and, I would have thought, is aware of this obligation.

Many of us were nervous of what David Kahn would have to say when his turn came to review the book. When his review did appear in the *New York Review of Books*, it was surprisingly mild and harmless. He, of course, is in a different category. Not ever having been a part of

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any Government agency, he cannot be regarded as subject to the same restrictions.

Other reviewers have been influential journalists who have taken the tone that the book has revealed the operations of World War II in a new light, that history will have to be rewritten, that the British have told only part of the story and that they will have to tell the rest. I do not know whether we have heard the last of this attitude.

Something has to be said about the paragraphs on page 14 of the book dealing with personalities. Winterbotham mentions the mathematicians Alexander, Babbage, Welchman, and Milner Barry, but doesn't seem to have heard of Turing, who is generally regarded as the leading genius of the methods of solution of the Enigma in its various forms. He says that "it was generally accepted that of our own backroom boys 'Dilly' Knox was the mastermind behind the Enigma affair." I do not agree with this at all, though I am aware that he was in general charge of the analysis of the machine before the war and long before the British had any success in solution. Incidentally, Winterbotham seems to confuse Knox with Foss, who fits much better into the physical description in the book and who had some influence on early solutions before bombes became available. In his casual remarks about me, Winterbotham is somewhere near the truth: he says I had been borrowed from the Army. So I was -- 20 years earlier! Of Josh Cooper he says he was "another brilliant mathematician." Josh wasn't a mathematician at all -- he was a very fine linguist. For no known reason, Winterbotham mentions Dick Pritchard. He was a regular Army officer who had been with me for 8 or 9 years, before the war, but he had nothing whatever to do with the solution of the Enigma.

I think it quite likely that all this does no harm at all, but we cannot by any means be certain of this. Therefore, we have to continue to try to withhold further disclosures, particularly on technical methods of solution.

~~(HVCCO)~~

Brigadier Tiltman was Deputy Director and Chief Cryptographer, GCHQ, from 1941 to 1946. Since 1964 he has been working at NSA, Fort Meade. He is a Commander, Order of St. Michael and St. George; Commander, Order of the British Empire; and Distinguished Member, CMI.

ULTRA WAS SECRET WEAPON THAT HELPED DEFEAT NAZIS

By P. W. Filby

(UNCLASSIFIED)

Shortly after the outbreak of World War II, the British Government acquired a stately home in a small town called Bletchley, a town renowned only for its railway junction and nearby brickyards.

For the next few months civilians and servicemen and women arrived in ever increasing numbers, and hardly a house in Bletchley escaped billeting. The citizens wondered at the motley crowd, raffishly dressed for the most part, often absent-minded and all having a studious air about them.

High iron fences were erected round the home known as Bletchley Park and armed Army guards were on duty at all times. The locals had to get used to comings and goings of their lodgers at all hours, and having taken in civilians they would suddenly see them emerge in full regalia as officers of the three services, especially when they made trips to London.

Many guesses were hazarded but the only thing that could be said was that it was a secret department -- and the secret was well kept, so well that it is not until now, thirty years later, that the Bletchley people and the world will know that the many thousands of people at the "Park" were working in enemy codes and ciphers.

Group Captain Winterbotham has taken advantage of the "30-year rule" to describe the success of one group, "Hut 3." It is an absorbing story, and although the chief defect is that Winterbotham was not a codebreaker and therefore makes several wrong assertions, the book is one of outstanding interest, and readers will marvel at the war's greatest secret and how it was kept until now.

Just before the outbreak of World War II the British had obtained by various means a complex machine known as "Enigma" which was being used for the encoding of the most secret and important German armed forces communications. After a prodigious effort the British cryptographers of "Hut 3" managed to break this machine and later built what might well have been the first computer, so that the communications could be read immediately upon receipt.

To everyone's surprise, the Germans continued to use this machine throughout the war and thus most plans made by Hitler and his High Command were known to the British (and later, the Americans also) at the same time as the German recipients.

Radio operators in remote, lonely locations intercepted the messages, which were rushed to

Bletchley, often by motorcycle until more sophisticated methods were evolved, and were promptly decoded and passed to the appropriate commands. The intelligence was code-named "Ultra."

Astonishingly, there is nothing in captured German documents to suggest that anyone suspected that the most secret cypher code was being read throughout the war. Much of the credit for this were the rules laid down by Winterbotham for the "need to know."

For instance, the Russians were never told of it, and the many free forces (French, Dutch, etc.) were not let in on the secret. Winterbotham toured British and American commands, lecturing users on this intelligence and warning them care had to be taken on how the information could be used.

For instance, although the presence of an enemy force might be given in detail by Ultra, to bomb it immediately would cause the Germans to wonder how the enemy knew of this force, so reconnaissance planes had to be used so that the Germans would suspect that they had been spotted from the air.

Unhappily, it was not unusual for holders of the German plans to have to forgo using them for fear of compromising the cypher break. One such occasion was the bombing of poor Coventry; enemy plans were known beforehand, but to defend the city would have aroused German suspicions. Although attempts to defend were made, the populace was not warned in advance. At that time it was not known whether German spies were working among the British.

But the information was used with telling effect in the Battle of Britain, when the Air Force knew exactly the direction and the force to be employed in each attack. It is probable that Ultra did much to save Britain in those dark days. Everyone knew the Air Force could not withstand these onslaughts for long, but Ultra allowed them breathing space by parceling out the slender defense forces where needed most.

Ultra played a particularly distinguished part in the North African campaign, where Montgomery was informed of Rommel's disposition of his forces and the extent of his supplies. Ultra also enabled supplies across the Mediterranean Sea to be sunk en route. Montgomery's face should be red, since he claimed verbally and in his books that he planned his battle order, but he acquired the record of invincibility only through his use of the information given by Ultra.

With the British losing thousands of tons of shipping weekly, the decoding of the German Navy's messages provided a welcome respite, and from 1943 the losses were significantly reduced since the disposition of the U-boats was known.

One wonders now just how the Normandy landing would have worked out without Ultra. Since decoded messages told of the German belief that the attack would come from the narrow Pas de Calais, General Patton arrived with a phantom army to give the impression the landing would indeed be tried there. Consequently Rundstedt and a vast army were kept there, reducing the defenses in Normandy.

Ultra's strength was also shown when, in the Battle of the Bulge, the Germans relied on telephone rather than radio communications, and many lives were lost because the Allies could learn nothing of the German plans and intentions.

These and other exciting stories are related in this absorbing book. It suffers perhaps because Winterbotham was a "go-between" rather than one of the codebreakers, and thus credit is not given to the mathematicians and linguists who worked long hours in stuffy rooms where, because of blackout precautions, fresh air seldom penetrated the smoke-filled atmosphere.

Tribute must also have been paid to those radio operators, straining their ears when static and other conditions meant a missed group and maybe an important one at that, when the operator could not ask for a repeat -- these were the real heroes of one of the outstanding accomplishments of the war.

One amusing tailpiece to the whole affair is the effect it will have on those whose memoirs have already been written. Many should now be rewritten; if Ultra did not actually win the war it will cause historians to revise what has been written thus far. Books such as "D-Day" are exciting reading, but the present work must be included in all war history collections from now on, since it will affect all war histories in varying ways.

Winterbotham is rightly proud of Bletchley's achievement, but he tends to forget that information needs acting upon; it needs good generals and above all a great Air Force, Army, and Navy. Fortunately the Allies had these too, and though Ultra was one of the most important contributions to the victory, Winterbotham perhaps overrates it a little.

Sir John Masterman's book, "The Double-Cross System in the War of 1939-1945" (reviewed in these columns February 12, 1972) describes how captured spies were "turned around" and also contributed to the downfall of Germany. There were other great coups but Ultra and Double Cross must rank very high in the defeat of the Nazis.

P. W. Filby, in addition to his SIGINT experience at Bletchley Park and GCHQ, is an "honorary NSA-er by marriage" (his wife is CLA President and CRYPTOLOG's SRA Editor Vera R. Filby). Mr. Filby is the current Director of the Maryland Historial Society, Baltimore, Maryland. The preceding review is reprinted in entirety from the Baltimore Evening Sun, June 10, 1975. ~~(FOUO)~~

DOCID: 4009727

P.L. 86-36

MUM'S STILL THE WORD!

By [redacted] M542

Many people make their work and the organization they work for an extension of their own egos, especially when the organization is performing a vital service to society. For most people, one of the most compelling motivations on the job is the quest for approval by their peers and supervisors. But we NSAers are not like "most people." True, we have always been able to rely on peer and supervisory approval, but we have never been able to derive ego gratification from identifying with NSA -- historically, both the Agency itself and our specific jobs here have been obscured from public notice. Lately, however, the curtain cloaking our activities has been lifted slightly. Winterbotham's book *The Ultra Secret* and the follow-on revelations in the CBS television program, "Sixty Minutes," have provided the public with glimpses of the vital role that cryptology plays in protecting our nation's security. Certainly, all of us must feel a sense of pride, and perhaps indulge our egos a bit, to see our Agency's vital function finally made known to the public. It's a very seductive thing. We plug along for years without public recognition. We strive constantly to overcome the natural urge to discuss our work with non-NSA friends, particularly when that work involves events taking place on the world stage. Then, suddenly, there's our organization, our work -- us! -- on the television screen, the front page of the newspaper, the public bookshelf. How easy it is to feel proud about finally getting public recognition. But that initial feeling of pride and personal gratification is soon outweighed by the disquieting realization that someone has talked, someone has betrayed our tradition of keeping our mouths shut.

The fact that such revelations do not always compromise sensitive information, as in the case of *The Ultra Secret* and the TV follow-on, does not diminish our feelings of dismay. That precious shell of anonymity -- so carefully maintained over the years -- has been cracked. One can only expect that others will rush forth to give their versions of past events and open that crack still wider.

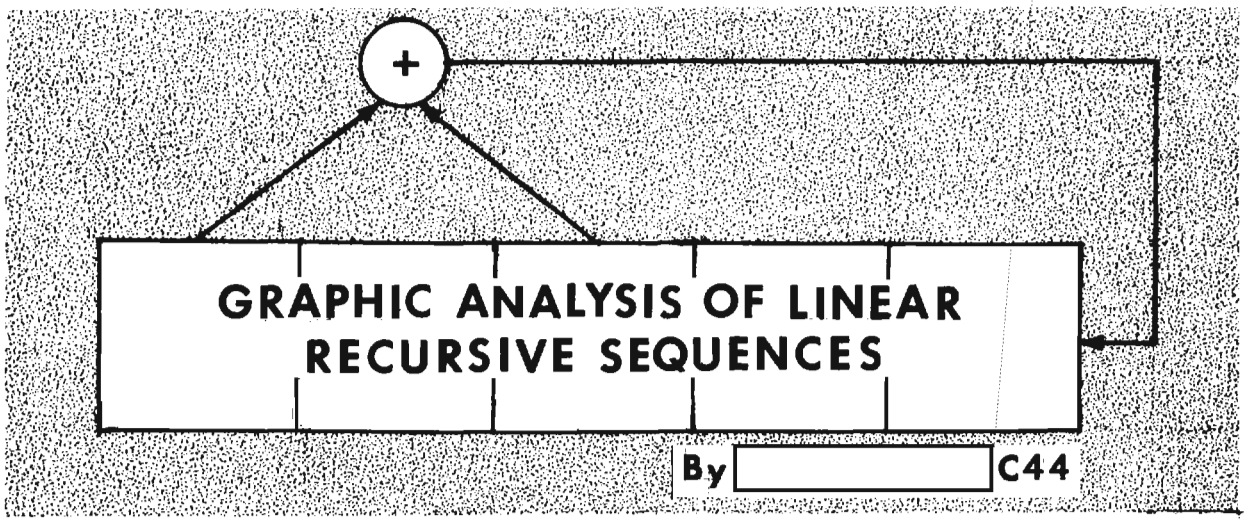
That our cryptologic operations are discussed at all in the public media, no matter how many decades have elapsed, is the primary concern here. Journalistic appetite begets appetite and, once titillated by the morsels served up by disclosures such as those in Winterbotham's book, it tends to become ravenous for the whole pot. Those who were associated with the cryptologic effort in the past -- and the numbers are prodigious -- as well as those currently involved, are presented with a psychological cop-out to indulge their egos and talk about their work. After all, everyone else is doing it. Thus, revelation begets revelation.

P.L. 86-36

The publication of *The Ultra Secret*, however innocuous its specific revelations, can only be viewed with foreboding. It can only hasten the dropping of the next shoe. And when that shoe drops, we NSAers should remember, "Mum's *still* the word!"

[redacted]

A Nazi submarine is shown under attack by American planes. Deciphering the Ultra code enabled Allied destroyers to sink many German U boats.



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P.L. 86-36

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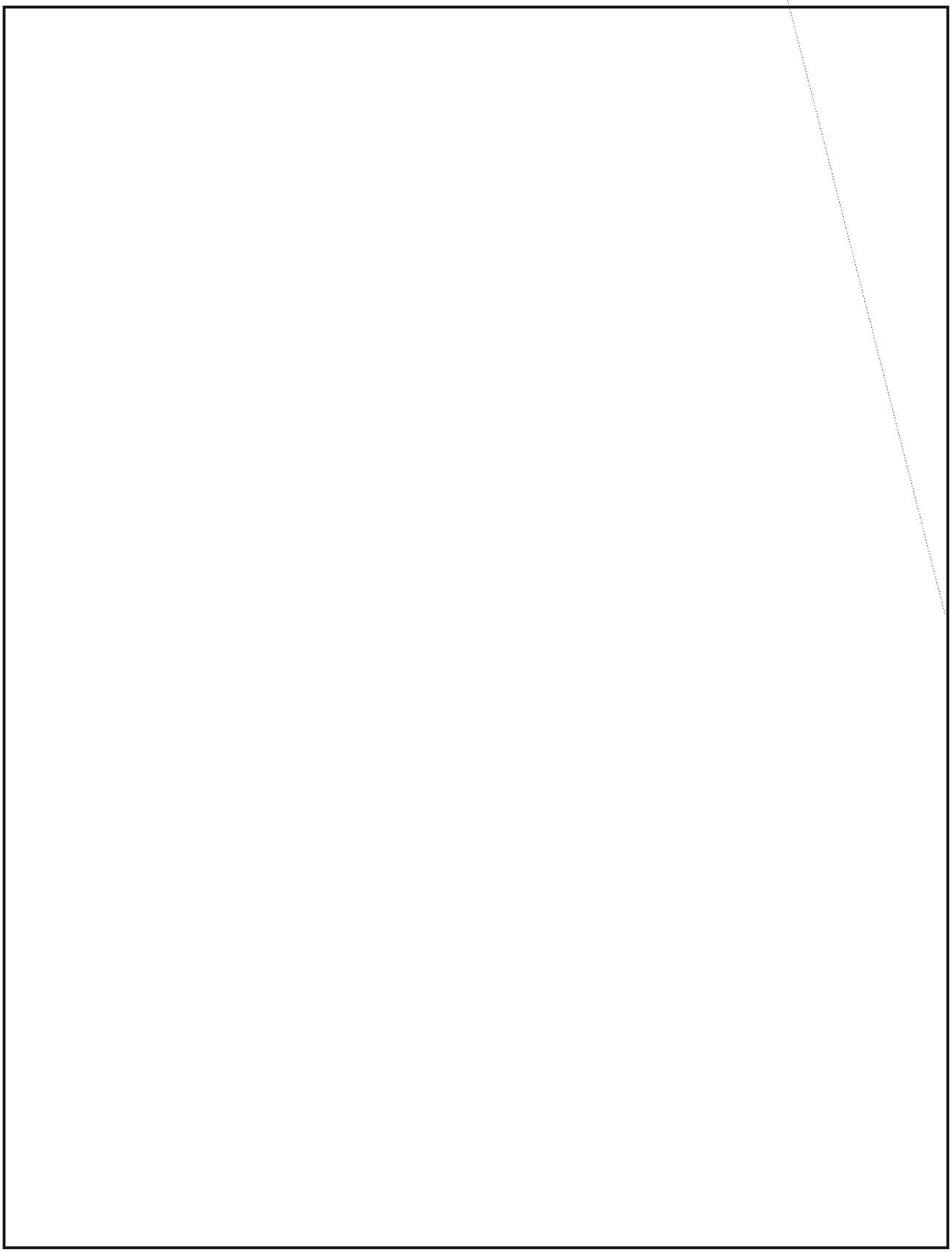

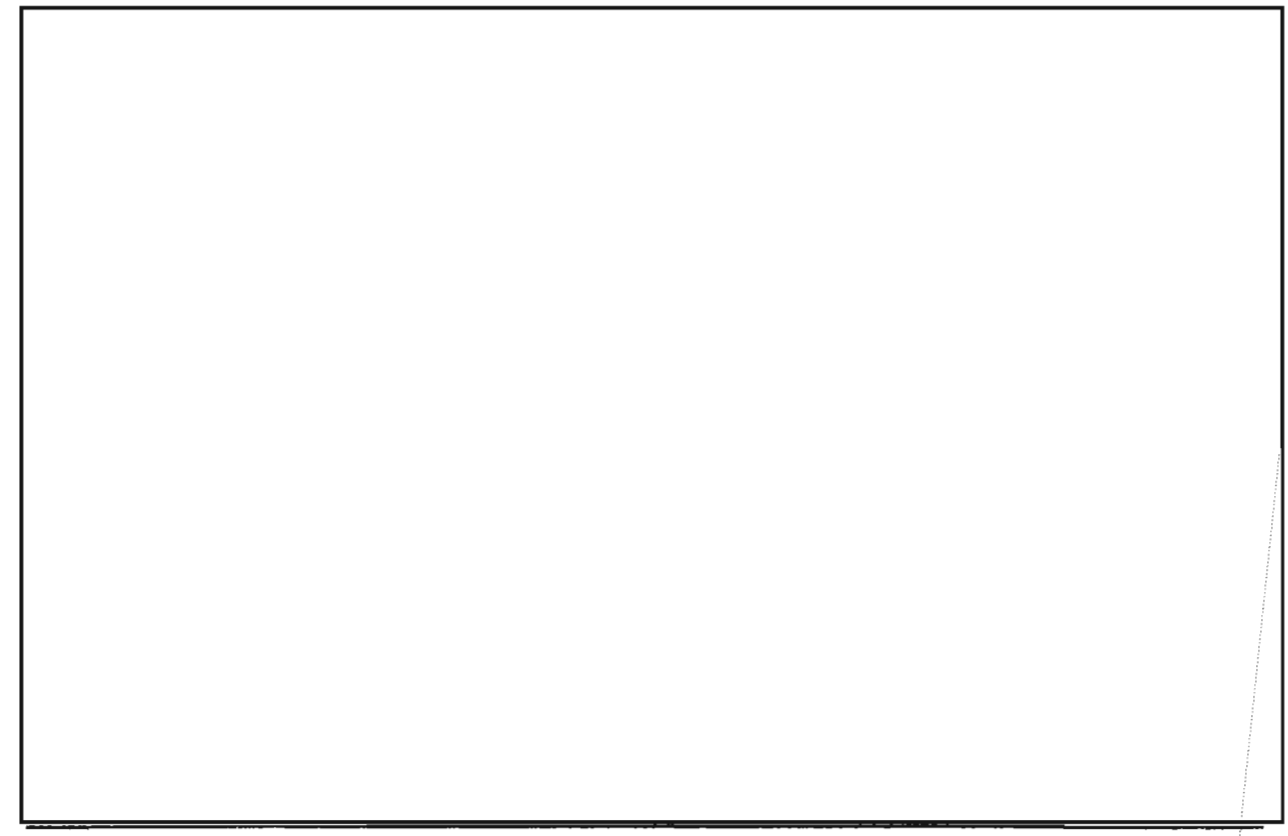

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P.L. 86-36

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CUMULATIVE INDEX, 1974-1975

The following cumulative index of CRYPTOLOG (Vols. I and II, 1974-1975), was computer-produced using the Super Bee CRT/Tycom typewriter terminal on the B6700 and programs written by George P. Wood, P16. The index is printed in the middle of this issue so that it can be removed and used as a separate document if desired.

The index is in two parts. The first part is an index of titles, listed alphabetically (1) by title and (2) by keyword in the title. The second part is an index of authors. In both parts, multiple entries are listed in chronological sequence.

Items in the double issue February-March 1975 are indicated by "Feb 75," and those in the double issue August-September 1975 by "Aug 75."

Abdul and His 40 Tanks
Frederic O. Mason, Jr.. . . . Aug 75

AFRIKAANS
Language in the News -- Afrikaans, Amerind, Arabic, Chinese, French, Hebrew, Lycian, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, Swahili . . . . . Sep 74

AMERIND
Language in the News -- Afrikaans, Amerind, Arabic, Chinese, French, Hebrew, Lycian, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, Swahili . . . . . Sep 74

APOSTROPHE
The Apostrophe -- Some Thought's
Vera R. Filby . . . . . Nov 74
The Winnah--Kid Apostrophe! . . . . . Oct 75

An Approach to Callsign Analysis
William J. Jackson. . . . . Dec 74

[redacted]
COMINT Analysis of [redacted]
Derek K. Craig. . . . . Sep 74
Letters to the Editor -- [redacted] article. . . . . Dec 74

ARABIC
Language in the News -- Afrikaans, Amerind, Arabic, Chinese, French, Hebrew, Lycian, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, Swahili . . . . . Sep 74
Language in the News -- Language Panel, NCS, Machine Course for Linguists, CLA News, Arabic. . . . . Apr 75

EO 1.4.(C)
P.L. 86-36

Are We Wasting Linguistic Time?
Mary Roberta Irwin. . . . . May 75

AUTOMATED
[redacted]
Maurice Welsh . . . . . Nov 75

AUTOMATION
Automation of a TA Process
Tim Murphy. . . . . Oct 75

Basic Patterns of [redacted] Codes and Ciphers
[redacted] . . . . . Feb 75

BEISBOL
The Language of Beisbol in Everyday Talk
[redacted]
Ramon Santiago-Ortiz. . . . . Aug 74

BOOKBREAKERS
Letters to the Editor -- Professionalization of Bookbreakers
[redacted] . . . . . Apr 75
Letters to the Editor -- [redacted] letter on Bookbreakers
[redacted] . . . . . May 75
Letters to the Editor -- [redacted] letter on Bookbreakers
[redacted] . . . . . May 75
Letters to the Editor -- Bookbreakers; Professionalization of Country Specialists
[redacted] . . . . . Jun 75
Letters to the Editor -- [redacted] letter on Bookbreakers . . . . . Jun 75
Letters to the Editor -- Rebuttal
[redacted] . . . . . Aug 75

CA
TA, Handmaiden of CA
Frederic O. Mason, Jr.. . . . May 75

CAA
Learned Organizations -- CLA Essay Contest; CAA News . . . . Dec 75

CALENDAR REFORM
A Proposal for Calendar Reform
Francis T. Leahy. . . . . Dec 74

Calling All SRAs! -- SRA Symposium
[redacted] . . . . . Aug 74

CALLSIGN
An Approach to Callsign Analysis
William J. Jackson. . . . . Dec 74

CAMINO
CAMINO News
[redacted] . . . . . Feb 75
CAMINO -- Electronic Warfare Terms
[redacted] . . . . . Jul 75

CAREER PANELS
A Short Directory of Career Panels. . . Aug 74

P.L. 86-36

CARRIAGE
Project CARRIAGE -- Worldwide HFDF Modernization Plan
James B. Webster. . . . . Sep 74

The Case for COMINT Readers
[redacted] . . . . . Jan 75

CENTRAL INFORMATION
A Guide to Central Information -- C5. . Apr 75

Character Building in the People's Republic of China
[redacted] . . . . . Oct 74

CHARACTER STREAM SCANNING
[redacted] Paper on Character Stream Scanning by Machine . . . . . Oct 75

CHINA
Character Building in the People's Republic of China
[redacted] . . . . . Oct 74

CHINESE
Language in the News -- Afrikaans, Amerind, Arabic, Chinese, French, Hebrew, Lycian, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, Swahili . . . . . Sep 74
Basic Patterns of [redacted] Codes and Ciphers [redacted] . . . . . Feb 75

CIPHERS
Basic Patterns of [redacted] Codes and Ciphers [redacted] . . . . . Feb 75
Computers, Comms, and Low-Grade Ciphers -- [redacted] . . . . . Oct 75

CISI
Learned Organizations -- CLA, CMI, CISI Prizes and Honors, Spring 1974 . . . Aug 74
Learned Organizations -- CISI Forms Special Interest Group on Human Factors . . . . . Dec 74
Learned Organizations -- CLA Is Ten Years Old! News from CISI, CMI, IAI . . . . . Jan 75

CITIZENS OF THE WORLD
Puzzle -- Citizens of the World . . . . Dec 74
Letters to the Editor -- Citizens of the World [redacted] . . . . . Feb 75

CLA
Learned Organizations -- CLA, CMI, CISI Prizes and Honors, Spring 1974 . . . Aug 74
Learned Organizations -- CLA Is Ten Years Old! News from CISI, CMI, IAI . . . . . Jan 75
Language in the News -- Language Panel, NCS, Machine Course for Linguists, CLA News, Arabic. . . . . Apr 75
Learned Organizations -- CLA, IAI . . . May 75
Learned Organizations -- CMI, CLA . . . Jul 75
Learned Organizations -- CLA Essay Contest; CAA News . . . . Dec 75

CMI
Learned Organizations -- CLA, CMI, CISI Prizes and Honors, Spring 1974 . . . Aug 74
Learned Organizations -- CLA Is Ten Years Old! News from CISI, CMI, IAI . . . . . Jan 75
Learned Organizations -- CMI, CLA . . . Jul 75

CODE
The Navajo Code Talkers . . . . . Jun 75

CODE CLERK
Psyching the Code Clerk -- [redacted]
L. D. Callimahos. . . . . Apr 75
Re-psychling the Code Clerk [redacted] . . . . . Jul 75

CODE RECOVERY
Cryptanalysis and Code Recovery Marjorie Mountjoy . . . . . Sep 74

CODES
Basic Patterns of [redacted] Codes and Ciphers [redacted] . . . . . Feb 75

CODEWORD
"Codeword" or "COMINT Channels"? [redacted] . . . . . May 75
Puzzle -- Crossed Codewords [redacted] . . . . . Jan 75

COLLECTION
The New Collection Criteria [redacted] . . . . . Dec 74

COLLECTOR
UNNA, [redacted] . . . . . Jan 75
What is a Collector? [redacted] . . . . . Aug 74

COMINT Analysis of [redacted]
Derek K. Craig. . . . . Sep 74

COMINT CHANNELS
"Codeword" or "COMINT Channels"? [redacted] . . . . . May 75

COMINT READERS
The Case for COMINT Readers [redacted] . . . . . Jan 75

COMM CHANGE
A Comm Change at Ramasun Station [redacted] . . . . . Apr 75

[redacted] The Warsaw Pact [redacted] . . Jul 75

EO 1.4.(C) P.L. 86-36

DOCID: 4009727

COMMS
Computers, Comms, and Low-Grade Ciphers --
[redacted] . . . . . Oct 75

COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE
[redacted] . . . . . Nov 75

COMPUTER
The Yawn of the Computer Age
or, When Your Terminal Is Terminal
[redacted] . . . . Jan 75
Computers, Comms, and Low-Grade Ciphers --
[redacted] . . . . . Oct 75

COMPUTER NETWORK
Computer Network Resources in C5 . . . Aug 75

COMPUTER SYSTEMS
Professionalizing in Computer Systems
[redacted] . . . . . Jun 75

COMSEC
COMSEC Familiarization - Do You Need It?
. . . . . Jun 75

COUNTRY SPECIALISTS
Letters to the Editor --
Bookbreakers; Professionalization of
Country Specialists
[redacted] . . . . . Jun 75

COURSE-EQUIVALENCY
NCS Offers Course-equivalency Tests . . Nov 75

COVERTERMS
Coverterms
Vera R. Filby . . . . . Apr 75
Letters to the Editor -- [redacted] article on
Coverterms
[redacted] . . . . . Jun 75

CRYPTANALYSIS
Cryptanalysis and Code Recovery
Marjorie Mountjoy . . . . . Sep 74
New Trends in the Teaching of Cryptanalysis
[redacted] . . . . . Nov 74

CRYPTANALYSTS
What Should You Expect?
or, The Analysis of Cryptanalysts
[redacted] . . . . . Aug 74

CRYPTANALYTICS
Puzzle -- Secret Messages, "Military
Cryptanalytics" . . . . . Dec 74

CRYPTO
More on Squaring the Page (A Crypto - TA
Function)
Frederic O. Mason, Jr. . . . . Jun 75

CRYPTOGRAMS
Secrets of the Altars -- The Moustier
Cryptograms
[redacted] . . . . . Sep 74

CRYPTOGRAPHIC
Psyching the Code Clerk --
[redacted]
L. D. Callimahos. . . . . Apr 75

CSI NEWSLETTER
Establishment of CSI Newsletter . . . . Dec 75

C5
A Guide to Central Information -- C5. . Apr 75
Computer Network Resources in C5 . . . Aug 75

DANANG
The Danang Processing Center
[redacted] . . . . . Oct 75

DATA
Data and Definitions -- Calling Things
by Their Rightful Names
[redacted] . . . . . Nov 74

DATA BASE
The TEXTA Data Base
William J. Jackson. . . . . Aug 74
How Clean Does a Data Base Need To Be?
[redacted] . . . . . Jan 75

[redacted]
The Warsaw Pact
[redacted]
Frederick W. Walton, Jr. . . . . Jul 75

DECRYPTION
[redacted]
[redacted] . . . . . Nov 75

DEFINITIONS
Data and Definitions -- Calling Things
by Their Rightful Names
[redacted] . . . . . Nov 74

[redacted]
[redacted] . . . . . Nov 75

DESKPAD
DESKPAD--A Programmer's Tool
[redacted] . . . . . Nov 75

The Devil's Dictionary. . . . . Feb 75

DICTIONARY
The Devil's Dictionary. . . . . Feb 75
Glossaries versus Dictionaries --
Which Should It Be?
Jacob Gurin . . . . . Feb 75

P.L. 86-36

EO 1.4.(c)
P.L. 86-36

EO 1.4.(c)
P.L. 86-36

P.L. 86-36

P.L. 86-36

P.L. 86-36

P.L. 86-36

DOCID: 4009727 EO 1.4.(C) P.L. 86-36

[redacted] What? Where? Why?
[redacted] . . . . . Nov 74

[redacted] Paper on Character Stream Scanning
by Machine . . . . . Oct 75

DIRECTORY
A Short Directory of Career Panels. . . Aug 74

The Do Xa Pads
Edward S. Wiley . . . . . Oct 75

DRAGON SEEDS
Vietnam Articles in Dragon Seeds . . . Oct 75

ELECTRONIC WARFARE
The Role of the Electronic Warfare Advisory
Element (EWAE) of NSA
[redacted] . . . . . Jun 75
CAMINO -- Electronic Warfare Terms
[redacted] . . . . . Jul 75

ELINT
The Uses of ELINT
[redacted] . . . . . Apr 75
Letters to the Editor --
[redacted] article on ELINT
[redacted] . . . . May 75

ENGLISH
Language in the News -- English . . . . Dec 74
Language in the News -- English . . . . Aug 75

Establishment of CSI Newsletter . . . . Dec 75

Even a 5-year-old Child
Emery W. Tetrault . . . . . Oct 74

The Faithful Echo - The Role of the
State Department Interpreter
[redacted] . . . . . Feb 75

A Fix for the Language Problem?
John B. Thomas, Jr. . . . . Aug 75

Flag-Waving Programmer
George John . . . . . Dec 74

FRANCOPHONEGLOS
FRANCOPHONEGLOS Printout VI Is Available
. . . . . Oct 75

FRENCH
Language in the News -- Afrikaans, Amerind,
Arabic, Chinese, French, Hebrew, Lycian,
Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, Swahili
. . . . . Sep 74
The Old [redacted] Section
[redacted] . . . . . Dec 74

Gary's Colors
Caterino Garofalo . . . . . Sep 74

GLOSSARY
The New Traffic Analysis Glossary . . . Aug 74

Golden Oldies -- An Unofficial Glossary
of Weasel Words. . . . . Oct 74
Glossaries versus Dictionaries --
Which Should It Be?
Jacob Gurin . . . . . Feb 75

GOLDEN OLDIES
Golden Oldies -- The Management Survey
of the Philharmonic. . . . . Aug 74
Golden Oldies -- King Eusyb and Queen Deodi
[redacted] . . . . . Sep 74
Golden Oldies -- An Unofficial Glossary
of Weasel Words. . . . . Oct 74
Golden Oldies -- Establishment of
Molecule Superseries. . . . . Feb 75
Golden Oldies -- SIMP Tables . . . . . Jun 75
Golden Oldies -- Blue Russian
[redacted] . . . . . Nov 75 P.L. 86-36

Graphic Analysis of Linear Recursive
Sequences
[redacted] . . . . . Dec 75

The Great Soviet Shipbuilding Mystery
[redacted] . . . . . Dec 75

A Guide to Central Information -- C5. . Apr 75

GUIDESMANSHIP
Guidesmanship -- or, How to Write
Technical Manuals Without Actually
Giving Anything Away
[redacted] . . . . . Nov 74

GULF OF TONKIN
The Gulf of Tonkin Incident
[redacted] . . . . Feb 75

GUPPY
Replacement of the GUPPY Library
[redacted] . . . . . Feb 75 P.L. 86-36

HEBREW
Language in the News -- Afrikaans, Amerind,
Arabic, Chinese, French, Hebrew, Lycian,
Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, Swahili
. . . . . Sep 74

HFDF
Project CARRIAGE -- Worldwide HFDF
Modernization Plan
James B. Webster. . . . . Sep 74
Hooray for PMDs!
[redacted] . . . . . May 75
How Clean Does a Data Base Need To Be?
[redacted] . . . . . Jan 75

HUMAN FACTORS
Learned Organizations -- CISI Forms
Special Interest Group on Human Factors
. . . . . Dec 74

IAI
Learned Organizations --
CLA Is Ten Years Old!.
News from CISI, CMI, IAI . . . . . Jan 75
Learned Organizations -- CLA, IAI . . . May 75

DOCID: 4009727

EO 1.4.(c)
P.L. 86-36

In Praise of SOLITS
Louis C. Grant. . . . . Nov 75

[redacted] . . . . . Nov 75

INTERN PROGRAM
A Long Hard Look at the Intern Program -- Program Philosophy; Recruitment
Anne Exinterne. . . . . Sep 74
A Long Hard Look at the Intern Program -- Selection and Orientation
Anne Exinterne. . . . . Oct 74
A Long Hard Look at the Intern Program -- Motivation and Morale
Anne Exinterne. . . . . Nov 74
A Long Hard Look at the Intern Program -- What Happens to the Graduates?
Anne Exinterne. . . . . Dec 74
Letters to the Editor -- Intern Program
Emery W. Tetrault . . . . . Feb 75
Letters to the Editor -- Intern Program
[redacted] . . . . . Apr 75

INTERPRETER
The Faithful Echo - The Role of the State Department Interpreter
[redacted] . . . . . Feb 75

[redacted]
Psyching the Code Clerk -- [redacted]
L. D. Callimahos. . . . . Apr 75

EO 1.4.(c)
P.L. 86-36

KING EUSYB
Golden Oldies -- King Eusyb and Queen Deodi
[redacted] . . . . . Sep 74

LANGUAGE
The Language of Beisbol in Everyday Talk
[redacted]
Ramon Santiago-Ortiz. . . . . Aug 74
Language Lessons Learned--A Personal Memoir
[redacted] . . . . . Oct 75
Tactical Language Exploitation-A Lesson Learned
[redacted] . . . . Oct 75

LANGUAGE IN THE NEWS
Language in the News -- Afrikaans, Amerind, Arabic, Chinese, French, Hebrew, Lycian, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, Swahili . . . . . Sep 74
Language in the News -- English . . . . Dec 74
Language in the News -- Language Panel, NCS, Machine Course for Linguists, CLA News, Arabic. . . . . Apr 75
Language in the News -- English . . . . Aug 75

LANGUAGE PANEL
Language in the News -- Language Panel, NCS, Machine Course for Linguists, CLA News, Arabic. . . . . Apr 75

LANGUAGE PROBLEM
A Fix for the Language Problem?
John B. Thomas, Jr. . . . . Aug 75

LEARNED ORGANIZATIONS
Learned Organizations -- CLA, CMI, CISI Prizes and Honors, Spring 1974 . . . Aug 74
Learned Organizations -- CISI Forms Special Interest Group on Human Factors . . . . . Dec 74
Learned Organizations -- CLA Is Ten Years Old! News from CISI, CMI, IAI . . . . . Jan 75
Learned Organizations -- CLA, IAI . . . May 75
Learned Organizations -- CMI, CLA . . . Jul 75
Learned Organizations -- CLA Essay Contest; CAA News . . . . Dec 75

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
Letters to the Editor -- SRA Symposium Oct 74
Letters to the Editor -- [redacted] Dec 74
Letters to the Editor -- Citizens of the World
[redacted] . . . . . Feb 75
Letters to the Editor -- Intern Program
Emery W. Tetrault . . . . . Feb 75
Letters to the Editor -- Intern Program
[redacted] . . . . . Apr 75
Letters to the Editor -- Professionalization of Bookbreakers
[redacted] . . . . . Apr 75
Letters to the Editor -- [redacted] article on ELINT
[redacted] . . . . . May 75
Letters to the Editor -- [redacted] letter on Bookbreakers
[redacted] . . . . . May 75
Letters to the Editor -- [redacted] letter on Bookbreakers
[redacted] . . . . . May 75
Letters to the Editor -- Bookbreakers; Professionalization of Country Specialists
[redacted] . . . . . Jun 75
Letters to the Editor -- [redacted] letter on Bookbreakers . . . . . Jun 75
Letters to the Editor -- [redacted] article
[redacted] . . . . . Jun 75
Letters to the Editor -- Rebuttal
[redacted] . . . . . Aug 75
Letters to the Editor-- Typewriter keyboard . . . . . Oct 75

LEXICOGRAPHY
Some Thoughts on Lexicography
Stuart A. Buck. . . . . Sep 74

LINEAR RECURSIVE SEQUENCES
Graphic Analysis of Linear Recursive Sequences
[redacted] . . . . . Dec 75

LINGUISTIC
Are We Wasting Linguistic Time?
[redacted] . . . . . May 75

EO 1.4.(c)
P.L. 86-36

EO 1.4.(c)
P.L. 86-36

EO 1.4.(c)
P.L. 86-36

EO 1.4.(c)
P.L. 86-36

DOCID: 4009727

LINGUISTS
Language in the News -- Language Panel, NCS, Machine Course for Linguists, CLA News, Arabic. . . . . Apr 75
Linguists -- We Need an Experts Yellow Pages! [redacted] . . . . . Aug 75
Linguists -- You Have an Expert to Call [redacted] . . . . . Oct 75
Linguists from the Melting Pot [redacted] . . . . . Dec 75

A Long Hard Look at the Intern Program -- Program Philosophy; Recruitment
Anne Exinterne. . . . . Sep 74
A Long Hard Look at the Intern Program -- Selection and Orientation
Anne Exinterne. . . . . Oct 74
A Long Hard Look at the Intern Program -- Motivation and Morale
Anne Exinterne. . . . . Nov 74
A Long Hard Look at the Intern Program -- What Happens to the Graduates?
Anne Exinterne. . . . . Dec 74

MACHINE COURSE
Language in the News -- Language Panel, NCS, Machine Course for Linguists, CLA News, Arabic. . . . . Apr 75

MACHINE INTELLIGENCE
Machine Intelligence -- Promise or Delusion? [redacted] . . . . . Jul 75

MANAGEMENT SURVEY
Golden Oldies -- The Management Survey of the Philharmonic. . . . . Aug 74

MAPS
Maps in Mind -- A Photoessay [redacted] . . . . . Dec 74

The Mission of the Signals Processing Requirements Panel [redacted] . . . . . Oct 74

MOLECULE SUPERSERIES
Golden Oldies -- Establishment of Molecule Superseries. . . . . Feb 75

[redacted] . . . . . Nov 75

More on Squaring the Page (A Crypto - TA Function)
Frederic O. Mason, Jr.. . . . Jun 75

Mum's Still the Word! ("The ULTRA Secret") [redacted] . . . . . Dec 75

The Navajo Code Talkers . . . . . Jun 75

NCS
News from NCS -- Agency Resumes Hiring of LICs; NCS Offers Course in "SIGINT Appreciation". . . . . Oct 74
Language in the News -- Language Panel, NCS, Machine Course for Linguists, CLA News, Arabic. . . . . Apr 75
NCS Offers Course-equivalency Tests . . Nov 75

The New Traffic Analysis Glossary . . . Aug 74
New Trends in the Teaching of Cryptanalysis [redacted] . . . . . Nov 74
The New Collection Criteria [redacted] . . . . . Dec 74

News from NCS -- Agency Resumes Hiring of LICs; NCS Offers Course in "SIGINT Appreciation". . . . . Oct 74

Nice Busman's Holiday for One NSA Employee
Barbara Dudley. . . . . Aug 74

1972-73--A Vietnam Odyssey [redacted] . . . . . Oct 75

NSA-CROSTIC
NSA-crostic No. 1 . . . . . Oct 75

An October Overlap [redacted] . . . . . Oct 74

The Old [redacted] Section
Horace Booth. . . . . Dec 74

One Chance in Three -- But It Worked
William Gerhard . . . . . Oct 75

[redacted] . . . . . Oct 75

ORAL REPORTING
Oral Reporting: A New Challenge for NSA [redacted] . . . . . Apr 75

OVERLAP
An October Overlap [redacted] . . . . . Oct 74

PADS
The Do Xa Pads
Edward S. Wiley . . . . . Oct 75

A Personal Comment on Winterbotham's "The ULTRA Secret"
Brig. John H. Tiltman . . . . Dec 75

PHILHARMONIC
Golden Oldies -- The Management Survey of the Philharmonic. . . . . Aug 74

PMDS
Hooray for PMDs! [redacted] . . . . . May 75

P.L. 86-36

P.L. 86-36

EO 1.4.(C)
P.L. 86-36

P.L. 86-36

EO 1.4.(C)
P.L. 86-36

P.L. 86-36

DOCID: 4009727

PORTUGUESE
Language in the News -- Afrikaans, Amerind, Arabic, Chinese, French, Hebrew, Lycian, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, Swahili . . . . . Sep 74

PRIZES
Learned Organizations -- CLA, CMI, CISI Prizes and Honors, Spring 1974 . . . Aug 74

Processing [redacted] Communications [redacted] . . . . . Aug 75

PROFESSIONALIZATION
Letters to the Editor -- Professionalization of Bookbreakers [redacted] . . . . . Apr 75

Letters to the Editor -- Bookbreakers; Professionalization of Country Specialists [redacted] . . . . . Jun 75

PROFESSIONALIZING
Professionalizing in Computer Systems [redacted] . . . . . Jun 75

PROGRAMMER
Flag-Waving Programmer
George John . . . . . Dec 74

DESKPAD--A Programmer's Tool [redacted] . . . . . Nov 75

Project CARRIAGE -- Worldwide HFDF Modernization Plan
James B. Webster. . . . . Sep 74

Project SYMBIOSIS
Anonymous . . . . . Jun 75

A Proposal for Calendar Reform
Francis T. Leahy. . . . . Dec 74

Psyching the Code Clerk -- [redacted]
L. D. Callimahos. . . . . Apr 75

Purity of the Russian Language -- Slavophiles vs. Westernizers [redacted] . . . . Nov 74

PUZZLE
Puzzle -- Stinky Pinky . . . . . Aug 74
Puzzle -- Telephone Directory . . . . . Aug 74
Puzzle -- Telephone Recall . . . . . Oct 74
Puzzle -- Secret Messages, "Military Cryptanalytics" . . . . . Dec 74
Puzzle -- Citizens of the World . . . . Dec 74
Puzzle -- Crossed Codewords [redacted] . . . . . Jan 75
Puzzle -- Can You Make Out the Name? [redacted] . . . . . Feb 75
Puzzle -- How Many Words in "CRYPTOLOG"? . . . . . May 75
Puzzle -- [redacted] Radiotelephone [redacted] . . . . . Jun 75

Puzzle -- CRY-PTO-LOGrolling . . . . . Aug 75
Puzzle -- NSA-crostic No. 1 . . . . . Oct 75

RADIOTELEPHONE
Puzzle -- [redacted] Radiotelephone [redacted] . . . . . Jun 75

RAMASUN
A Comm Change at Ramasun Station [redacted] . . . . Apr 75

RANDOM
Typewriter Random -- A New Look [redacted] . . . . . Aug 75

RAPIDTRAN
RAPIDTRAN -- [redacted] . . . . . Jul 75

Reflections on a Translators' Conference [redacted] . . . . . Nov 74

Replacement of the GUPPY Library [redacted] . . . . . Feb 75

Re-psychling the Code Clerk [redacted] . . . . . Jul 75

REVIEW
Review of "Guide to Russian Technical Translation," by Arthur J. Salemme [redacted] . . . . . Feb 75

RIGHT-TO-LEFT TEXT
Right-to-Left Text Sorts Are Not Impossible [redacted] . . . . . Aug 74

The Role of the Electronic Warfare Advisory Element (EWAE) of NSA [redacted] . . . . . Jun 75

RUSSIAN
Language in the News -- Afrikaans, Amerind, Arabic, Chinese, French, Hebrew, Lycian, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, Swahili . . . . . Sep 74

Purity of the Russian Language -- Slavophiles vs Westernizers [redacted] . . . . . Nov 74

Review of "Guide to Russian Technical Translation," by Arthur J. Salemme [redacted] . . . . . Feb 75

[redacted]

Golden Oldies -- Blue Russian [redacted] . . . . . Nov 75

[redacted]

Processing [redacted] Communications [redacted] . . . . . Aug 75

Secrets of the Altars -- The Moustier Cryptograms [redacted] . . . . . Sep 74

DOCID: 4009727

SELF-PACED INSTRUCTION
Self-Paced Instruction -- "The Future Is Now"
[redacted] . . . . . Aug 74

SHIPBUILDING
The Great Soviet Shipbuilding Mystery
[redacted] . . . . . Dec 75

The [redacted] Exercise -- A Case Study
in Special Research Analysis
Vera R. Filby . . . . . Oct 74

EO 1.4.(c)
P.L. 86-36

A Short Directory of Career Panels. . . Aug 74

SIGINT USER'S HANDBOOK
The SIGINT User's Handbook
or, What's an Ishtar?
[redacted] . . . . . Jan 75

SIGNALS PROCESSING
The Mission of the
Signals Processing Requirements Panel
[redacted] . . . . . Oct 74

SIMP TABLES
Golden Oldies -- SIMP Tables . . . . . Jun 75

SOLITS
In Praise of SOLITS
Louis C. Grant. . . . . Nov 75

Some Thoughts on Lexicography
Stuart A. Buck. . . . . Sep 74

SORTS
Right-to-Left Text Sorts Are Not Impossible
[redacted] . . . . . Aug 74

SOVIET
[redacted]
[redacted] . . . . . Nov 75

The Great Soviet Shipbuilding Mystery
[redacted] . . . . . Dec 75

SPANISH
Language in the News -- Afrikaans, Amerind,
Arabic, Chinese, French, Hebrew, Lycian,
Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, Swahili
. . . . . Sep 74

EO 1.4.(c)
P.L. 86-36

SPECIAL RESEARCH ANALYSI
The [redacted] Exercise -- A Case Study
in Special Research Analysis
Vera R. Filby . . . . . Oct 74

A Spot by Any Other Name
Vera R. Filby . . . . . Aug 74

SQUARING THE PAGE
More on Squaring the Page (A Crypto - TA
Function)
Frederic O. Mason, Jr.. . . . Jun 75

P.L. 86-36

SRA SYMPOSIUM
Calling All SRAs! -- SRA Symposium
[redacted] . . . . . Aug 74
Letters to the Editor -- SRA Symposium Oct 74

STATE DEPARTMENT
The Faithful Echo - The Role of the
State Department Interpreter
[redacted] . . . . . Feb 75

STINKY PINKY
Puzzle -- Stinky Pinky . . . . . Aug 74

SWAHILI
Language in the News -- Afrikaans, Amerind,
Arabic, Chinese, French, Hebrew, Lycian,
Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, Swahili
. . . . . Sep 74

SYMBIOSIS
Project SYMBIOSIS . . . . . Jun 75

TA
P.L. 86-36
TA, Handmaiden of CA
Frederic O. Mason, Jr.. . . . May 75
More on Squaring the Page (A Crypto - TA
Function)
Frederic O. Mason, Jr.. . . . Jun 75
Automation of a TA Process
Tim Murphy. . . . . Oct 75

TACTICAL
IRONHORSE--A Tactical SIGINT System
[redacted] . . . . . Oct 75
Tactical Language Exploitation-
A Lesson Learned
[redacted] . . . . Oct 75

TEACHING
New Trends in the Teaching of Cryptanalysis
[redacted] . . . . . Nov 74

TECHNICAL MANUALS
Guidesmanship -- or, How to Write
Technical Manuals Without Actually
Giving Anything Away
[redacted] . . . . . Nov 74

P.L. 86-36

TELEPHONE
Puzzle -- Telephone Directory . . . . . Aug 74
Puzzle -- Telephone Recall . . . . . Oct 74

[redacted]
UNNA, [redacted]
[redacted] . . . . . Jan 75

TERMINAL
The Yawn of the Computer Age
or, When Your Terminal Is Terminal
[redacted] . . . . Jan 75

TEXTA
P.L. 86-36
The TEXTA Data Base
William J. Jackson. . . . . Aug 74

Too Many Garbles
[redacted] . . . . Jul 75

DOCID: 4009727

TRAFFIC ANALYSIS
The New Traffic Analysis Glossary . . . Aug 74

TRANSLATION
Review of "Guide to Russian Technical Translation," by Arthur J. Salemme
[redacted] . . . . . Feb 75

RAPIDTRAN --
[redacted] . . . . . Jul 75

TRANSLATORS' CONFERENCE
Reflections on a Translators' Conference
[redacted] . . . . . Nov 74

TRANSPOSITION
Twenty Years of Transposition
[redacted] . . . . . Aug 75

TYPEWRITER
Typewriter Random -- A New Look
[redacted] . . . . . Aug 75

Letters to the Editor --
Typewriter keyboard . . . . . Oct 75

ULTRA
A Personal Comment on Winterbotham's "The ULTRA Secret"
Brig. John H. Tiltman . . . . Dec 75

ULTRA Was Secret Weapon That Helped Defeat Nazis
P. W. Filby . . . . . Dec 75

Mum's Still the Word! ("The ULTRA Secret")
[redacted] . . . . Dec 75

UNNA
UNNA, A Telex Collector
[redacted] . . . . . Jan 75

The Uses of ELINT
[redacted] . . . . . Apr 75

[redacted] . . . . . Oct 75

VIETNAM
Vietnam Articles in Dragon Seeds . . . Oct 75

1972-73--A Vietnam Odyssey
[redacted] . . . . . Oct 75

VOYNICH
The Voynich Manuscript -- Third Theory
Doris E. Miller . . . . . Aug 75

[redacted] . . . . . Oct 75

WARSAW PACT
[redacted] . . Jul 75

WEASEL WORDS
Golden Oldies -- An Unofficial Glossary of Weasel Words. . . . . Oct 74

What Should You Expect?
or, The Analysis of Cryptanalysts
[redacted] . . . . . Aug 74

What Are We About? (Fragments, Figments, or What?)
[redacted] . . . Dec 75

What is a Collector?
[redacted] . . . . . Aug 74

When Censorship Backfires
[redacted] . . . . . Nov 75

Where Does "Does" Come From?
Emery W. Tetrault . . . . . Jun 75

The Winnah -- Kid Apostrophe! . . . . . Oct 75

The Yawn of the Computer Age
or, When Your Terminal Is Terminal
[redacted] . . . . Jan 75

YELLOW PAGES
Linguists -- We Need an Experts Yellow Pages!
[redacted] . . . . . Aug 75

[redacted]
The Gulf of Tonkin Incident . . . . . Feb 75

Tactical Language Exploitation-
A Lesson Learned . . . . . Oct 75

[redacted]
Graphic Analysis of Linear Recursive Sequences. . . . . Dec 75

Anonymous
Project SYMBIOSIS . . . . . Jun 75

[redacted]
Self-Paced Instruction -- "The Future Is Now" . . . . . Aug 74

[redacted]
Re-psychling the Code Clerk . . . . . Jul 75

[redacted]
Letters to the Editor -- Professionalization of Bookbreakers. . . . . Apr 75

[redacted]
The Uses of ELINT . . . . . Apr 75

[redacted]
The Role of the Electronic Warfare Advisory Element (EWAE) of NSA. . . . . Jun 75

[redacted]
The Old [redacted] Section. . . . . Dec 74

[redacted]
Letters to the Editor -- [redacted] article on ELINT . . . . . May 75

P.L. 86-36

EO 1.4.(C)
P.L. 86-36

[redacted]
Maps in Mind -- A Photoessay. . . . . Dec 74

Stuart A. Buck
Some Thoughts on Lexicography . . . . . Sep 74

[redacted]
The New Collection Criteria . . . . . Dec 74
What is a Collector?. . . . . Aug 74

L. D. Callimahos
Psyching the Code Clerk -- [redacted]
Apr 75

[redacted]
The Danang Processing Center. . . . . Oct 75

[redacted]
IRONHORSE--A Tactical SIGINT System. . Oct 75

[redacted]
DESKPAD--A Programmer's Tool. . . . . Nov 75

[redacted]
Linguists -- You Have an Expert to Call
Co-author: Rhea Nagle. . . . . Oct 75

Derek K. Craig
COMINT Analysis of [redacted] . . . Sep 74

[redacted]
Hooray for PMDs!. . . . . May 75

[redacted]
. . . Oct 75

[redacted]
The Mission of the Signals Processing
Requirements Panel. . . . . Oct 74

Barbara Dudley
Nice Busman's Holiday for One NSA Employee
. . . . . Aug 74

[redacted]
What Should You Expect?
or, The Analysis of Cryptanalysts. . Aug 74
Secrets of the Altars -- The Moustier
Cryptograms. . . . . Sep 74
An October Overlap. . . . . Oct 74
Twenty Years of Transposition . . . . . Aug 75

[redacted]
CAMINO News . . . . . Feb 75
Machine Intelligence -- Promise or Delusion?
. . . . . Jul 75
CAMINO -- Electronic Warfare Terms. . . Jul 75

[redacted]
Puzzle -- Can You Make Out the Name?. . Feb 75

[redacted]
Puzzle -- [redacted] Radiotelephone [redacted]
. . . . . Jun 75

Anne Exinterne
A Long Hard Look at the Intern Program --
Program Philosophy; Recruitment. . . Sep 74
A Long Hard Look at the Intern Program --
Selection and Orientation. . . . . Oct 74
A Long Hard Look at the Intern Program --
Motivation and Morale. . . . . Nov 74
A Long Hard Look at the Intern Program --
What Happens to the Graduates? . . . Dec 74

[redacted]
[redacted] What? Where? Why? . . . Nov 74

P. W. Filby
ULTRA Was Secret Weapon That Helped Defeat
Nazis. . . . . Dec 75

Vera R. Filby
A Spot by Any Other Name. . . . . Aug 74
The [redacted] Exercise -- A Case Study
in Special Research Analysis . . . . Oct 74
The Apostrophe -- Some Thought's . . . Nov 74
Coverterms. . . . . Apr 75

[redacted]
Typewriter Random -- A New Look . . . . Aug 75

Caterino Garofalo
Gary's Colors . . . . . Sep 74

William Gerhard
One Chance in Three -- But It Worked. . Oct 75

[redacted]
Linguists from the Melting Pot. . . . . Dec 75

Louis C. Grant
In Praise of SOLITS . . . . . Nov 75

Jacob Gurin
Glossaries versus Dictionaries --
Which Should It Be?. . . . . Feb 75

[redacted]
Letters to the Editor --
Bookbreakers; Professionalization of
Country Specialists. . . . . Jun 75

[redacted]
Character Building in the People's
Republic of China
Co-author: [redacted] . . . . . Oct 74

[redacted]
Letters to the Editor -- [redacted] article on
Coverterms . . . . . Jun 75

[redacted]
Puzzle -- Crossed Codewords . . . . . Jan 75

[redacted]
Data and Definitions -- Calling Things
by Their Rightful Names. . . . . Nov 74

[redacted]
Mum's Still the Word! ("The ULTRA Secret")
. . . . . Dec 75

EO 1.4.(c)
P.L. 86-36

EO 1.4.(c)
P.L. 86-36

P.L. 86-36

EO 1.4.(c)
P.L. 86-36

P.L. 86-36

P.L. 86-36

P.L. 86-36

DOCID: 4009727

Mary Roberta Irwin
Are We Wasting Linguistic Time? . . . . May 75

William J. Jackson
The TEXTA Data Base . . . . . Aug 74
An Approach to Callsign Analysis. . . . Dec 74

[redacted]
New Trends in the Teaching of Cryptanalysis
. . . . . Nov 74

George John
Flag-Waving Programmer. . . . . Dec 74

[redacted]
Purity of the Russian Language --
Slavophiles vs. Westernizers . . . . Nov 74

[redacted]
"Codeword" or "COMINT Channels"? . . . May 75

[redacted]
When Censorship Backfires . . . . . Nov 75

[redacted]
Reflections on a Translators' Conference. Nov 74

Francis T. Leahy
A Proposal for Calendar Reform. . . . . Dec 74

[redacted]
The Yawn of the Computer Age
or, When Your Terminal Is Terminal . Jan 75

[redacted]
Golden Oldies -- King Eusyb and Queen Deodi
. . . . . Sep 74

Frederic O. Mason, Jr.
TA, Handmaiden of CA. . . . . May 75
More on Squaring the Page (A Crypto - TA
Function). . . . . Jun 75
Abdul and His 40 Tanks. . . . . Aug 75

[redacted]
Professionalizing in Computer Systems . Jun 75

[redacted]
Basic Patterns of [redacted] Codes and Ciphers
. . . . . Feb 75

[redacted]
Linguists -- We Need an Experts Yellow Pages!
. . . . . Aug 75

Doris E. Miller
The Voynich Manuscript -- Third Theory. Aug 75

Marjorie Mountjoy
Cryptanalysis and Code Recovery . . . . Sep 74

Tim Murphy
Automation of a TA Process. . . . . Oct 75

[redacted]
Letters to the Editor --
[redacted] letter on Bookbreakers. . May 75
Letters to the Editor -- Rebuttal . . . Aug 75

[redacted]
Linguists -- You Have an Expert to Call
Co-author: [redacted] . . . . . Oct 75

[redacted]
1972-73--A Vietnam Odyssey
Co-author: [redacted] . . . . . Oct 75

[redacted] P.L. 86-36
The SIGINT User's Handbook P.L. 86-36
or, What's an Ishtar?. . . . . Jan 75

[redacted]
The Faithful Echo - The Role of the
State Department Interpreter . . . . Feb 75

[redacted]
RAPIDTRAN --
[redacted] . . Jul 75
Language Lessons Learned--A Personal Memoir
. . . . . Oct 75

[redacted] EO 1.4.(C)
Character Building in the People's P.L. 86-36
Republic of China
Co-author: [redacted] . . . . . Oct 74

[redacted] P.L. 86-36
A Comm Change at Ramasun Station. . . . Apr 75

[redacted]
Golden Oldies -- Blue Russian . . . . . Nov 75

[redacted]
The Language of Beisbol in Everyday Talk
Co-author: Ramon Santiago-Ortiz. . . . . Aug 74
The Case for COMINT Readers . . . . . Jan 75
Too Many Garbles. . . . . Jul 75

Ramon Santiago-Ortiz
The Language of Beisbol in Everyday Talk
Co-author: [redacted] . . . . Aug 74 P.L. 86-36

[redacted]
Calling All SRAs! -- SRA Symposium . . Aug 74

[redacted]
[redacted] Nov 75
EO 1.4.(C)
[redacted] P.L. 86-36
Letters to the Editor -- Intern Program Apr 75

[redacted]
1972-73--A Vietnam Odyssey
Co-author: [redacted] . . . . . Oct 75 P.L. 86-36

[redacted]
How Clean Does a Data Base Need To Be?. Jan 75

[redacted]
Processing [redacted] EO 1.4.(C)
Communications . . . . . P.L. 86-36 Aug 75

[redacted]
Replacement of the GUPPY Library. . . . Feb 75

P.L. 86-36

DOCID: 4009727

P.L. 86-36

Emery W. Tetrault
Even a 5-year-old Child . . . . . Oct 74
Letters to the Editor -- Intern Program. . Feb 75
Where Does "Does" Come From? . . . . . Jun 75

[redacted]
Guidesmanship -- or, How to Write Technical Manuals Without Actually Giving Anything Away . . . . . Nov 74

[redacted]
Computers, Comms, and Low-Grade Ciphers -- [redacted] . . Oct 75

John B. Thomas, Jr
A Fix for the Language Problem? . . . . Aug 75

Brig. John H. Tiltman
A Personal Comment on Winterbotham's "The ULTRA Secret" . . . . . Dec 75

[redacted]
Review of "Guide to Russian Technical Translation," by Arthur J. Salemme . Feb 75

[redacted]
Letters to the Editor -- [redacted] letter on Bookbreakers. . May 75

[redacted]
Oral Reporting: A New Challenge for NSA Apr 75

[redacted]
UNNA, [redacted] . . . . . Jan 75

[redacted]
The Warsaw Pact [redacted] . . . . . Jul 75

James B. Webster
Project CARRIAGE -- Worldwide HFDF Modernization Plan . . . . . Sep 74

[redacted]
[redacted] . . . Nov 75

LCDR James T. Westwood
What Are We About? (Fragments, Figments, or What?). . . . . Dec 75

Edward S. Wiley
The Do Xa Pads . . . . . Oct 75

[redacted]
The Great Soviet Shipbuilding Mystery . Dec 75

[redacted]
Letters to the Editor -- Citizens of the World. . . . . Feb 75

[redacted]
Right-to-Left Text Sorts Are Not Impossible . . . . . Aug 74

EO 1.4.(c)
P.L. 86-36

P.L. 86-36

CRYPTOLOG Rebus

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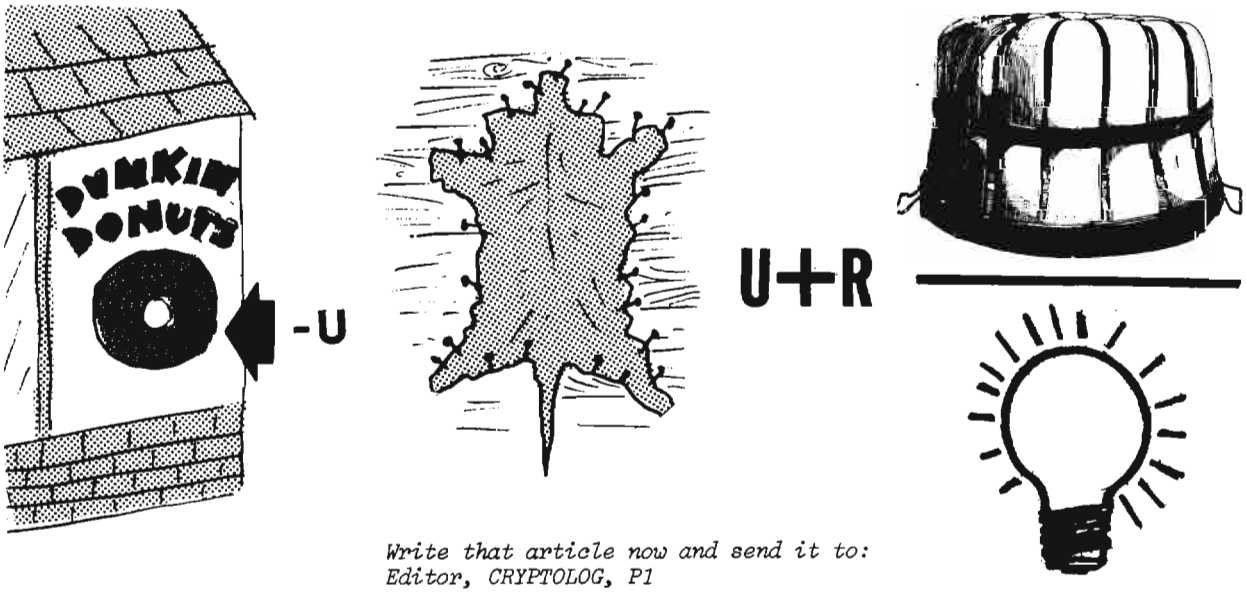

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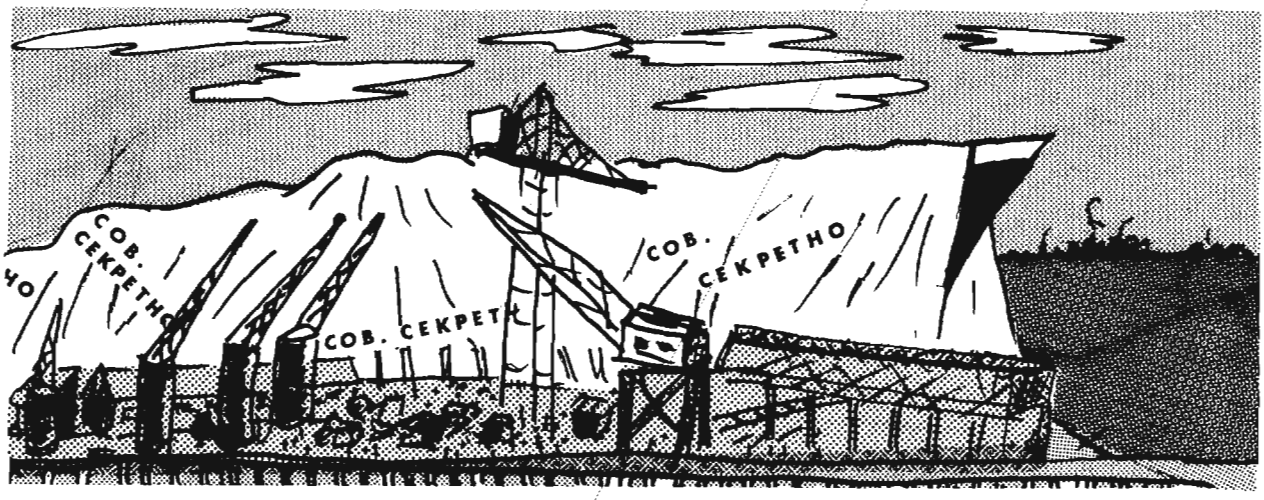
P.L. 86-36



THE GREAT SOVIET SHIPBUILDING MYSTERY

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EO 1.4.(c)
P.L. 86-36

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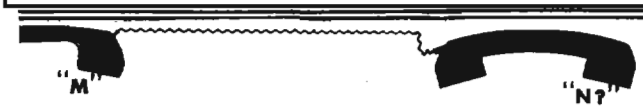
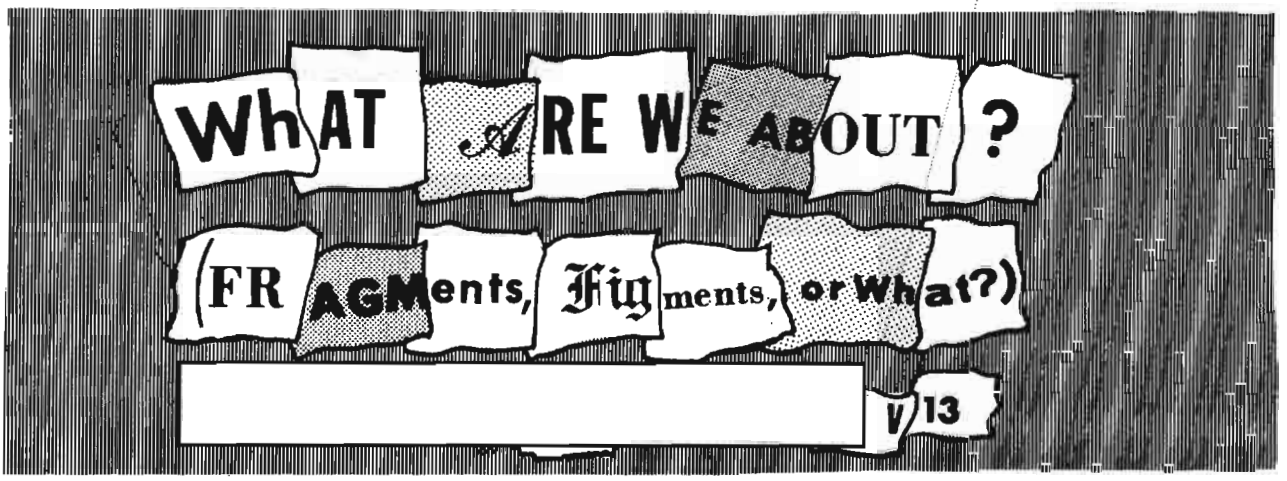
Remember that in the Soviet Union, too, engineers don't do things the way anybody else does.



Editor's note: Russian phonetic alphabets, like English ones, reduce ambiguity ("BORIS" sounds different from "VLADIMIR," just as "Mary" sounds different from "Nancy"). Since phonetic alphabets are not used universally, transcribers of Russian voice often have as much trouble distinguishing between "BEh" (the name of the letter) and "VEh" as we ordinary telephone users have in distinguishing between English "em" and "en." But the transcriber of Russian voice has yet another problem (those Russian engineers again!). The names of Latin letters, as spoken in Russian, don't sound like "ay," "bee," "see" at all. Instead, they are based on the French names of the letters. Hence, Latin H, as pronounced by a Russian engineer, is not like the English "aitch," but is "ASh" (French "ache"); Y is not "wye," but "IGREK" (French "y grec").

EO 1.4.(c)
P.L. 86-36

DOCID: 4009727 P.L. 86-36



The collection and dissemination of defense intelligence, or any other kind of intelligence, does not have to be especially complicated, so long as certain fundamental principles and goals are kept in mind. Defense intelligence, in which NSA/CSS and the Service Cryptologic Services are heavily involved, should seek to answer certain elemental questions in peacetime, wartime, or several other somewhat nebulous "times" between peace and war. These questions include:

- *Do we have* an enemy/adversary? If we do, *who* is he and *why* is he an opponent?
- *Where* is he and in what *strength?*
- What are his *intentions?*
- What are his perceptions of himself, *his own purposes and goals?*
- Are his intentions *consistent* with his strength (capability)? If not, might he be practicing *deception?*

Within defense intelligence, the business of signals intelligence is to "read the enemy's mail." This assumes that there *is* a bona fide enemy. Given the U.S. national interests, reading the enemy's mail requires a massive effort. For one thing, it takes a vast amount of mail to yield real nuggets of value on a continuing basis. It follows that, if the processing and reporting effort ever catches up with the collection effort, we would be in real trouble because we would certainly have the cart before the horse. There is, however, a sometimes overlooked proviso in this relationship: Any major SIGINT effort whose thrust is not in line with reading the enemy's mail (in an admittedly broad sense) is probably superfluous and ought to be redirected or abolished, because resources are limited and we must, therefore, keep expenditures of those resources tied to our fundamental purposes.

Of course, "reading the mail" is a figurative phrase. It does not mean just CA and TA. It means all that we do with men and machines that allows SIGINT to work its effectiveness in terms of timeliness, uniqueness, and fidelity, that is, the faithful reflection of the enemy's intentions and activities.

Intelligence, in whatever form and from whatever source, is a service provided to decision-makers. Decision-makers are civilian and military officials with distinct responsibility and personal accountability for solving problems that affect the public welfare. To make effective deployment of the people and property constituting their responsibility, the decision-makers need certain information, much of which we have come to call *intelligence*. But this intelligence is not an end in itself. It does not exist to promote and serve itself. It exists to give decision-makers the best it can provide in the way of current, accurate, reliable information to answer the vital questions they have to answer. Additionally, and by its very nature, intelligence must be anonymous and quiet. A secret is best kept by not revealing it. Mr. Colby was recently quoted as saying, "Intelligence. . .will not work if exposed."

There is no small amount of confusion and resultant ineffectiveness at large in the intelligence business today because of the tendency of intelligence producers to provide intelligence users with too much, too fast, too often -- that is, because of the "shotgun" approach. This tendency results from our attempt to cover ourselves against the possibility that we might fail to tell somebody something that he really needs to know. Morever, because we *collect* a lot of intelligence, we feel compelled to *process* a lot. That leads to wanting to *report* a lot, and, in turn, to inundating the user with so much intelligence that he cannot give certain portions of it the necessary attention. This gives rise to certain attendant problems: This tendency to broadfire intelligence then leads to the tendency for intelligence producers to dictate, however subtly or indirectly, how much of what kind of intelligence the users shall receive and, moreover, in what format and at

what rate they shall receive it. These tendencies are especially visible in terms of SIGINT support to military commanders. The result in this instance is that we make military commanders passive recipients of intelligence. An active role, with commanders saying, "This is what I want to know and this is how much I want," is precluded by a deluge of "This is what we want you to have." If this is drawn out to its ultimate conclusion, the presumed goal of "increased accessibility to intelligence product by decision-makers at all levels" is unattainable.

Those who pay close attention to dissemination might disclaim the existence of these tendencies. They might attempt to explain the present situation by splitting intelligence into "tactical" and "strategic." But the difference between "tactical" and "strategic," to my mind, lies not so much in the nature and content of the intelligence itself, as in the level or scope of the decision-making that the intelligence is supposed to serve. For example, was it tactical or was it strategic intelligence which foretold the Chinese crossing of the Yalu River into Korea? Obviously, it was both: it was tactically useful intelligence to the field commanders in Korea, and it was also strategically useful intelligence to the President and his Cabinet. We do our SIGINT profession an immense disservice when we fragment our efforts and our product into pieces and parts in an attempt to serve two or more users, for example, the tactical commander and the national decision-maker.

Perhaps we should devote some time away from the production process in order to get from all our users a clearer idea of what they would consider to be useful. Intelligence production today is much more efficient than ever before, given our increasing reliance on automatic data processing. Whether it is also effective is another question. Effectiveness is the accomplishment of objectives -- the satisfaction of requirements. Machines are not a substitute for human judgment. Decision-makers want to know that human judgment has been brought to bear to weigh the significance of the intelligence that is being machine-processed so efficiently for them.

Tactically, the fundamental questions have not changed since Moses sent spies into the Land of Canaan: Where is the enemy and in what strength? Strategically, basic questions persist: What are our interests and what and how much do we need to know about threats to those interests?

What are we about, then? We are about the business of providing intelligence service to decision-makers. We ourselves are not those decision-makers and we must resist the tendency to confuse roles. It is not in the nature of our business to decide what is strategic and what is tactical. We have skills and facilities that can respond to intelligence needs at various levels, often simultaneously, but not by saturation.

SIGINT is part of a larger intelligence business which, itself, requires us intelligence producers to integrate our efforts and to tailor our production and dissemination to answer the fundamental, but related, questions posed by a variety of users. Those users can best be served from the same, single set of resources if we all appreciate what we are about.

CSI news

NSA COMPUTER SYSTEMS INTERN PROGRAM

The Intern Panel Advisory Board (IPAB) has established a new monthly publication, the *Computer Systems Intern Newsletter*, in order to provide "lines of communication both to and from the Interns themselves" and "to better inform and advise those associated with the Computer Systems Intern Program." The publication is classified FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY and began with the September 1975 issue.

Anyone who would like to receive back issues or to be put on the distribution list should contact the Editor, [redacted] R214, 3460s or 3469s.

~~(FOUO)~~

P.L. 86-36

DOCID: 4009727

LINGUISTS FROM THE MELTING POT

By [redacted] P.L. 86-36

For several years, NSAers who grade language hiring examinations have noted that people's names do not always match up with their expected language ability: an applicant named, say, Yamashita can score horrendously on the Japanese hiring examination, and someone named Olivetti can do just as badly on the Italian. But it is often difficult to convince managers commissioned to "solve the language problem" that the solution to, say, the "Russian language problem" is not just a matter of running out and hiring 100 American citizens with names like Ivanov and Fedorenko. The following article by [redacted] (NSA retiree), which is reprinted from *Keyword* (November 1971), deals with some of the reasons why Americans with foreign surnames often show a surprising lack of knowledge about the language they supposedly picked up at their mother's or grandmother's knee. P.L. 86-36

It is a common belief that since a large part of the United States population is made up of immigrants and the children of immigrants there is a ready source of foreign-language talent for any emergency. To a degree this is true, but the source has many limitations. Any language must undergo changes if its speakers are moved to a strange environment, and the speech of the immigrants to the United States is no exception.

If you examine the "Help Wanted" section of the German-American press, for example, you will find a large number of English words used to designate skills or crafts. At first there seems to be no pattern in the choice of German or English words, but the existence of Backergeselle (journeyman baker) *in one advertisement not far from another that seeks an* erstklassigen body-and-fender-Mann (first-class body and fender man) *suggests that the borrowings are in response to a world of labor in which there is a greater, or perhaps only different, specialization. For the unfamiliar specialty the immigrant has a choice of coining a new word in his own language, or simply of borrowing directly from the other language. There are still other means of meeting the problem.*

The book I Trapiantati (The Transplanted), *written by Giuseppe Prezzolini, an Italian foreign correspondent in New York, and published by Longanesi & Co., Milano, 1963, contains two chapters dealing with this subject as it concerns Italian-Americans. Since the general situation presented may be considered typical of many immigrant groups, I have gisted them briefly below.*

Italians who visit the United States and come in contact with others who have settled here for one or two generations are amazed, puzzled, and sometimes horrified at the language they hear used by those who, like them, call themselves Italians. It is the same impression as that received by visitors, journalists, and consular employees who came here in decades past. What they heard was not Italian, it was not dialect, nor was it even English; still it was at the same time a little Italian, a little dialect (and this varied from place to place and sometimes from person to person), but it regularly revealed an English-language base, pronounced in the Italian fashion, that is to say an English root, with the round, vowel endings of Italian. For example there was:

contrattore	contractor
la tracca	track
la grosseria	grocery
il bordante	boarder

Their amazement increased when they found this jargon written (often only approximately) in restaurant menus, the classified ads of Italian-American newspapers, and even in official documents of American authorities who wanted to be understood by Italian immigrants. "American Italian" was a *deformation of English* rather than an adaptation of Italian. It was the result of the effort made by a mass of poor and ignorant country people, dependent upon employers who spoke a foreign language, to make themselves understood by the latter and by their own fellow workers.

Anthony Turano, an American writer of Italian origin, observed very correctly that the rural origin of most immigrants made a mechanical vocabulary difficult for them. To express their needs the southern Italian peasants were compelled to use English terms, since they had never known the Italian equivalents. But in adopting the English terms they transformed them, as best they could, by making them phonetically similar to Italian. Turano distinguished three categories of borrowings:

DOCID: 4009727

- words remote from the immigrant's former life:

sexa, sescia	(railroad) section
rancio	ranch
rodomastro	roadmaster

- words for things unknown to him before he came to America:

fensa	fence
morgheggio	mortgage

- words that stuck in the immigrant's mind by dint of constant repetition, even though he knew the corresponding Italian words:

stritto	street
denso	dance
carro	car

There is also a well-known linguistic phenomenon by which a people when it accepts a foreign word finds one in its own language which is similar to it and which it adapts to the new use even though it may have a completely different meaning. For example,

sciabola	(saber)	shovel[1]
olivetta	(kind of sausage)	elevator, elevated
tonno	(tuna fish)	tunnel

At times the marriage of English and Italian involves a dialect, as in the case of *coppastese* (Neapolitan *'ncuop* + English *stairs*), *upstairs;* or *coppetane* (*'ncuop* + English *town*), *uptown.* The Sicilians, however, do not use this expression, but instead say *oppitauni.*

In making a list of words in the American Italian jargon, it is easy to see that the proportion of adjectives to nouns is very small -- much smaller than in either Italian or English. The immigrant had to be able to express *pezze*[2] (dollars), or *bosso* (boss), but not necessarily "pretty" or "good" or "true" or "false." *Orre!* (Hurray!), an expression from the American-Italian variety shows, barely reveals a feeling of admiration, and *naise* (nice) a favorable opinion.

At first, newspapers in the Italian language adhered fairly closely to standard Italian, but after about 1900 the flood of classified advertisements made it impossible to conceal or translate the jargon of the Italian-American working man. In the *Bolletino della Sera* in 1917, advertisements are found for:

sceperi	shapers (of garments)
pressatori	pressers
sottopressatori	pressers' helpers

There were also to be seen advertisements for a *mezzo-barista* (a man to work half a day in a bar). In these pages a country place was always a *farma* (farm). Heating was done with *stima* (steam, but meaning in Italian *esteem*), and a frequent advertisement was for sale of a *casa senza stima* -- a house without heat or without esteem, depending on how well you understood American English.

This occurs less and less frequently. Such expressions have almost disappeared from the classified advertisements of *Il Progresso Italo-Americano,* not because the older generation doesn't still use them, but because that generation no longer has to work. The new generation of Italians who are looking for work know Italian pretty well and do not need the job opportunities translated into jargon. Nobody is trying to buy a *fruttistenne* (fruit stand) any more.

Prezzolini feels that the whole of this interlingua will probably have ceased to exist within a few generations, since the more recent immigrants (much fewer in number) arrive under quite different circumstances. In Italy they have learned the logical bases of the Italian language (it must be remembered that a large part of the older immigration was illiterate) and here, as soon as they go to school -- even the adults -- they learn English and are (quoting Prezzolini) the first to be horrified at the crude linguistic mixture of their predecessors. Undoubtedly, the language he describes will vanish since it was based on the southern dialects of Italian and was the hasty creation of peasants abruptly thrust into an urban world. The newer immigrants more frequently speak standard Italian and are literate, often cultured people. So long as their Italian is a tool used in a foreign society, though, it must adapt, and it will evolve into an American Italian much different from the parent language.

With some exceptions, the immigrants of any nationality are much more concerned with earning a living, raising a family, buying a car, or any of a host of other things than they are in preserving the purity of their native languages. Their children will necessarily speak a truncated language, adequate for the needs of the family or neighborhood, but shot through with words borrowed or transformed from English. The value of the family-trained linguist to SIGINT should not be underestimated because of these limitations, but at the same time it should be recognized that this source produces only raw material that must be trained and developed.

[1]Another observer mentioned his amazement at being told by an immigrant countryman that there was plenty of work in the United States for a man who knew how to use *picca e sciabola,* which in Italian means "pike and saber," but in American Italian, "pick and shovel." (R.E.G.)

[2]*Pezze* may be used because of Spanish *peso.* The word was commonly used in Nevada in a rudimentary Spanish-Italian jargon used by immigrant laborers of both nationalities when working together. *Scudi* and *dollari* were used by other Italian speakers, as I recall. (R.E.G.)

DOCID: 4009727

CLA ESSAY CONTEST

The tenth annual essay contest of the Crypto-Linguistic Association is now open. Papers will be accepted until 19 March 1976. A panel of three judges will select the three best, which will be awarded prizes of $100, $50, and $25 at the CLA's spring meeting. Every entry will be considered for publication in whichever of the Agency publications is most appropriate for its content and style.

The purpose of the contest is to encourage writing on topics concerning application of linguistic knowledge to the solution of Agency-related problems. Any writing on cryptology or a significantly related topic may be entered. Papers may be classified up to TOP SECRET CODEWORD. Any NSA or SCA employee (CLA member or nonmember) and any nonemployee CLA member may enter the contest.

Three copies of the manuscript (preferably typed), together with any necessary graphics, should be submitted to the CLA Secretary, [redacted] *Room B5B21, Tel. 8560s.*

P.L. 86-36

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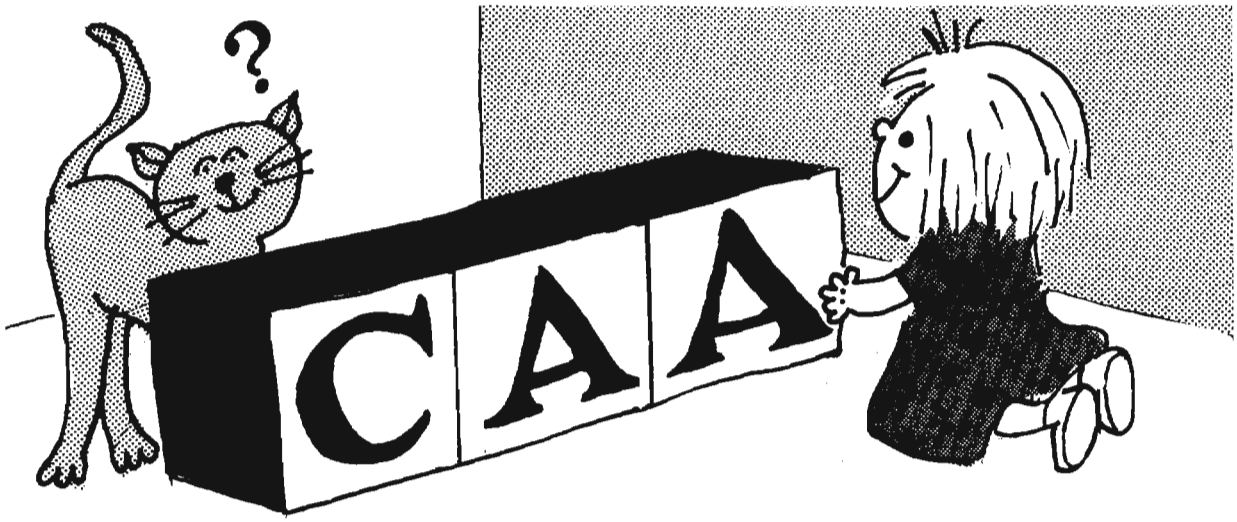

CAA-What's that?

"That" is the Communications Analysis Association, one of the Agency's Learned Organizations. The CAA was established in 1968 "to promote increased professionalism in the career fields of Traffic Analysis and SIGINT Research" by encouraging professional contact among its members and specialists in related fields; by conducting workshops and lectures; by encouraging the writing of technical papers to document the disciplines; and by recognizing those who advance the art and science of traffic analysis and SIGINT research. Membership in the CAA was originally restricted to professionals and aspirants in TA and SR in the U.S. Cryptologic family and collaborating agencies, but it was later opened to those in the related fields of Signals Collection, Signals Analysis, Cryptanalysis, etc. At one time the Association published the technical magazine *COMMAND*, now incorporated into *CRYPTOLOG*.

So far this 1975-1976 lecture year, the CAA has sponsored the following lectures:

- "GUARDRAIL" (Col. Norman Campbell),
- "Changing Emphasis in the USAFSS" (Maj. Gen. H. P. Smith), and
- "SIGINT in Vietnam: Lessons Unlearned" [redacted]

P.L. 86-36

All three lectures drew standing-room-only audiences of members and nonmembers to the Friedman Auditorium. The Association, under its President, Frank Smead, is outlining a program of lectures and other activities for 1976 which will be in keeping with the organization's stated objectives.

Anyone interested in joining the CAA should call its Treasurer, Tim Murphy, on 4787s or its Secretary, Jane Dunn, on 8025s for more information. ~~(CONFIDENTIAL)~~

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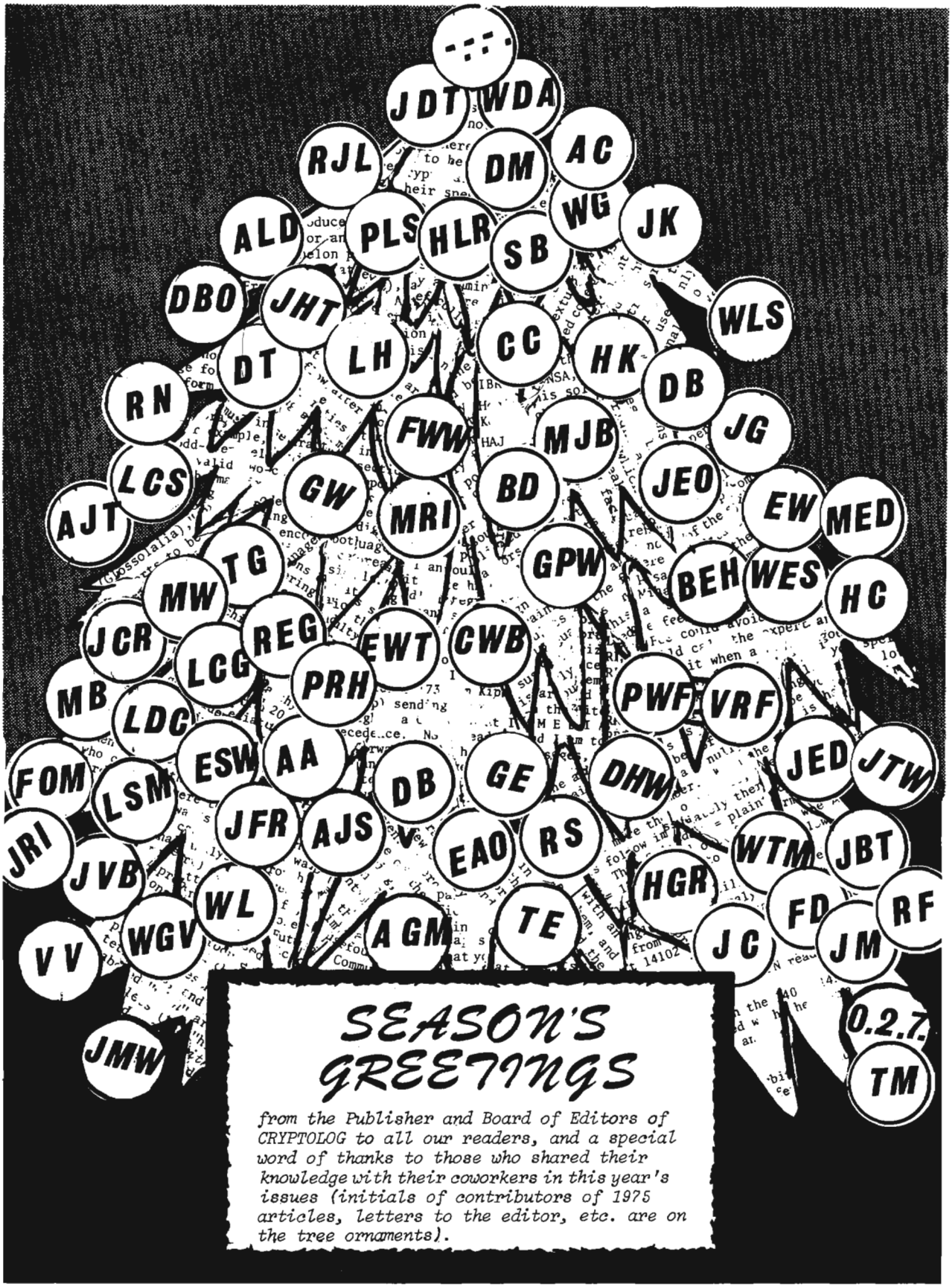

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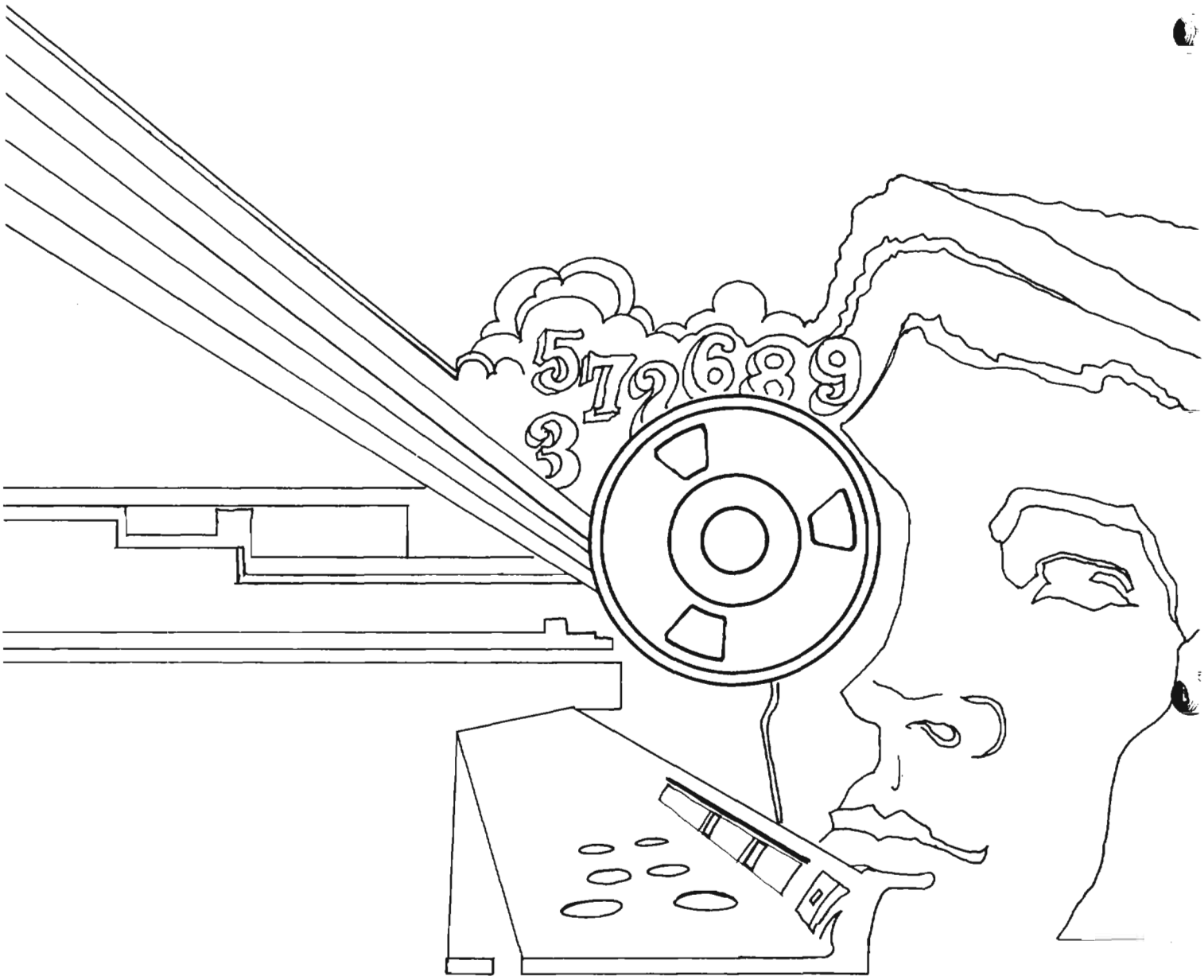
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