

Confidential Filing

The possibility of a Secure Telephone link
between Washington, London, Paris and Bonn.

SECURITY

October 1979

| Referred to | Date | Referred to | Date | Referred to | Date | Referred to | Date |
|-----------------------|------|-------------|------|-------------|------|-------------|------|
| 29. 10. 79 | | | | | | | |
| 14. 11. 79 | | | | | | | |
| 20. 11. 79 | | | | | | | |
| 28. 12. 79 | | | | | | | |
| 14. 6. 80 | | | | | | | |
| 21. 4. 82 | | | | | | | |
| 7. 5. 82 | | | | | | | |
| 11. 8. 83 | | | | | | | |
| 16. 9. 83 | | | | | | | |
| 14. 10. 83 | | | | | | | |
| 22. 11. 85 | | | | | | | |
| 8. 1. 86 | | | | | | | |
| 14. 10. 83 | | | | | | | |

PREM 19/11/28

File
/

~~Mr. Joyce~~ 19/10

Peter.

In connection with the visit of Pres. Mitterand next Thurs/Fri, the French Embassy have been in touch with me about a Hot Line telephone between N° 10 and their Embassy exchange. I have advised that they ^{should} order a circuit from BT specifying termination in N° 10 in the waiting room (John Coles' choice). On Wednesday next, the French will wish to send one of their technicians to instal one of their phones on the end of the line. Name(s) of the technician(s) and registration number of their vehicle will be supplied on Wed. I have warned John Craft.

Thurs. 14 / Oct.

Copy to L.J. Wright 5.19.63

comments



By JSH

10 DOWNING STREET

- 1) KY 70 (study)
- 2) KY 70 (secretary) *
- 3) STS (cab rm) *
- 4) Brahm's *
 vias IS
via 170 - not OK.
scut case OK.
- 5) Extn 201
- 6) ~~Ext~~ 201 (scrambler)
- 7) T/V Audio *
- 8) Elcrovox (Study) *

* Circuit not yet connected

24 Aug. Spoke Wright. Will investigate



J 24/8.

10 DOWNING STREET

Mr ~~Spence~~ Spence

So far as I am
aware we still
do not have a facility
to record K470 calls
(See my minute to
Mr Whitmore of 21.4.82)

Is it possible to check
if arrangements are in
hand to deal with this
problem?

Reles Ewing 2218183

Security

OKOKOOK

VVZCZCWAG030
PR WTE24
DE WTE 5392 2231749
R 111731Z AUG 33
FM CDR WHCA WASH DC
TO CABINET OFFICE LONDON
ZEM

CABINET OFFICE
G 1551
1 2 AUG 33
FILING INSTRUCTIONS
FILE NO. 3155

MR WRIGHT
MR ELLIOTT ✓
MR ERNE
File
Sprs ✓

57

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIA CABINET OFFICE CHANNELS
FOR WRIGHT FROM TUCK

SUBJECT: KY-70 EQUIPMENT AT CHEQUERS — f56
REFERENCE YOUR MESSAGE OF 14 JULY
REGARDING THE STATUS OF THE KY-70 LOCATED AT CHEQUERS, ENQUIRIES
HAVE BEEN MADE TO THE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY (NSA) CONCERNING
THEIR INTENTIONS. AS A RESULT OF THOSE ENQUIRIES, NSA HAS ADVISED
THAT THE KY-70 AT CHEQUERS CAN REMAIN ON LOAN FOR AS LONG AS
REQUIRED. UNLESS YOU INFORM US OTHERWISE, WE WILL ASSUME THAT
RETENTION OF THIS CAPABILITY AT CHEQUERS IS REQUIRED AND THAT THE
KY-70 WILL REMAIN AT THAT LOCATION.
REGARDS, TUCK.

0113
5392

NNNN

Copy: P Jone Esq. ^{11/20/81}

DE CAB OSI 111731Z AT 1904 TKS VLS



ROUTINE 141700Z JUL 83
FROM CABINET OFFICE LONDON
TO CDR WHCA
ZEM
CONFIDENTIAL
MISC 177 OF 14 JULY 1983.
FOR COL TUCK FROM WRIGHT

SUBJECT: KY 70 EQUIPMENT AT CHEQUERS.
YOUR MAY KNOW THAT THIS EQUIPMENT WAS GENEROUSLY SUPPLIED BY
THE U.S. DURING THE FALKLAND ISLANDS DISPUTE TO ENABLE THE
PRIME MINISTER AT CHEQUERS TO SPEAK SECURELY TO THE PRESIDENT.
FOR PLANNING PURPOSES, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO KNOW IF IT IS
THE INTENTION TO LEAVE IT WITH US ON LONG-TERM LOAN OR IF IT IS
LIKELY TO BE WITHDRAWN PRESENTLY. I WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU WILL
MAKE ENQUIRIES AND LET ME KNOW THE OUTCOME.

REGARDS.

BT

NNNN M

Copy: P. J. Cole Esq. 17/2/83

Security

Ref. A08340

MR COLES

*ML 14/6
h.a.*

I have seen Paris telegram number 425 of 5 May, in which our Ambassador in Paris says that the Prime Minister's letter of 26 April to the President of the French Republic only arrived in Paris by bag on 4 May and had in large part been overtaken by events.

2. This prompts me to remind you that we have secure telex communications with the Elysee in Paris and the Federal Chancellor's office in Bonn, which can be used to convey messages very quickly.

3. We are hoping also to make arrangements for secure speech communications with the Elysee and the Chancellor's office, but these systems are not yet available for use.

REA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

7 May 1982

BE
22/4 ✓ ~~Mr. King~~
Thank you.

Security

MR. WHITMORE

I raised the issue of a recording facility with Mr. Wiggins on Monday. He told me - and repeated your today - that it had always been planned to have c.c. Mr. Davies-Jones own a facility and that once Mr. Malye had completed some work closely in hand, one would be available. He will now re-examine all this.

I also took up with him the issue of a secure telephone link between the White House and the White House. The Americans are flying a spec over today, and it should be installed and working by the week-end. (Add) 21.4.

Secure Telephone Link to the White House

On Saturday, 17 April, I had cause to set up the secure line to the White House, for which as you know there are just the two extensions.

This was the first time that I had had to set up the equipment, and I was surprised that there was no facility to record the conversation. The link is secured via the communications officer in the Cabinet Office, and therefore bypasses our switchboard, effectively ruling out the possibility of recording. I was assured by the Cabinet Office that they too would be unable to record the call; indeed, if any problems were encountered during the call it would be necessary to alert them to the problem by re-dialling '3'.

The omission of such a facility seems to me to pose a number of problems - not least that there is no fool-proof system to later check what has been said. Of course, during normal working hours there would be the opportunity for a Private Secretary to listen in to the call by using the extension by your desk. However, out of office hours, the Duty Clerk could be called upon to monitor a conversation on sensitive material with which he is not totally familiar. This could lead to problems when later called upon to write up the conversation.

This was something that the Prime Minister was obviously unaware of, and does seem to represent a weak link in the system. I can appreciate that for security reasons, it is impossible to link a Private Secretary at home into the call, but a tape recorder within the building would not surely represent a threat to security.

I wonder if you are therefore content for the present system to continue or whether consideration could be given to installing recording equipment similar to that used for routine calls. I am told that the old BELGARD system previously installed had this capability.

[Since drafting this minute I have now learnt from Mr. Wright in the Cabinet Office that British Telecommunications are due to provide a recording system, but to date have failed to do so.]

P. Ewing

P. EWING

21 April, 1982.

C.A. Whitmore, Esq.



CABINET OFFICE

With the compliments of
Sir Robert Armstrong KCB, CVO
Secretary of the Cabinet

① MAD ✓
② CMW MW
75
14/68
41x

70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS
Telephone: 01-233 8319

Security

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Ref. A02892

MR. J. L. WRIGHT

Secure Speech Equipment for Heads of
Government Use

I think that I did mention this matter to M. Wahl at a meeting last year; but, if I did, it was very much in passing, and I do not think that we can rest on that. I will certainly speak to him when we next meet, which will probably be in the margins of the Prime Minister's meeting with President Giscard in Paris on 19th September.

2. I am sending copies of this minute to Mr. Whitmore and Mr. Wade-Gery.

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

14th August, 1980

CONFIDENTIAL



14 AUG 1980

C. W. Wainwright Esq.
10 Downing Street

✓ MW

20/11



CABINET OFFICE

With the compliments of

Mr J. L. Longin.

70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS

Telephone 01 233

7705

11/8/80

(20/31511)

Sir Robert Armstrong.Secure speech equipment for Heads of Government use.

Reference Mr Whitmore's minute of 8 July 1980, the latest position is that the KY70 has been installed in the secure speech equipment room in the Office and it is being tested daily between there and the White House Communications Agency (WHCA), Washington. Cabling from the KY70 has been laid for an extension in the Study in No.10 but it is proving difficult to find a secure route for cabling for an extension in the Private Office in No.10. We hope to do so in the next 10 days. Extension instruments will then be connected in these two places, and in the COBR, by US personnel using a special equipment which is at present in Paris.

2. Each extension instrument has buttons which enable one or both other extensions to be connected for monitoring purposes all such connection being under the control of the extension from which the call is initiated. It may later be possible to provide a monitoring facility in the Study in the shape of a parallel extension or, simply, an earpiece. Advice on this is being sought from NSA by the WHCA.

3. In his minute to you dated 20 November 1979, Mr Whitmore said that the Prime Minister had agreed that we should seek to use the KY70 also with Bonn and Paris. When they handed over the equipment, the WHCA and State Department representatives told me that Dr Brzezinski had asked them to say that there would be no objection to such use and that the US will supply the cypher key material for each lateral link. I will follow this up at the appropriate time with Herr Karscheiss in the Bundeskanzleramt (you will recall that you mentioned it to Herr Schüller on 31 October 1979). The question of use of the equipment with Paris has not yet been put to the French. May I suggest that you do so when you next meet M. Wahl and, if he agrees, ask him to say with whom I should discuss details.

4. I am copying this to Mr Whitmore and to Mr Wade-Gery.

J.L. Wright

J L Wright

11 August 1980

CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

MR. WRIGHT
CABINET OFFICE

US OFFER OF SECURE SPEECH EQUIPMENT
FOR HEADS OF GOVERNMENT USE

We had a word this afternoon about Mr. Wright's minute of 3 July 1980.

As I said then, I think there is a good case for putting the third of the three extension instruments on offer in the Private Office in No. 10: otherwise I do not see how we would be able to monitor any conversation which the Prime Minister might have from the Study with another Head of Government. But perhaps I have got the technicalities wrong?

I am sending copies of this minute to Mr. Wade-Gery and Mr. Wright.

CLIVE WHITMORE

8 July 1980

CONFIDENTIAL

out

B.F. 13-7-80

6c.

CJW o/r.
hw
5 in.

(2G/3151)

Sir Robert ArmstrongUS offer of secure speech equipment for Heads of Government use.

The equipment (KY70) referred to in your minute A0651 dated 14 November 1979 to Mr Whitmore is now at the US Embassy and it will shortly be delivered to the Office for installation by a White House team. I understand that work has already started on installation of the equipments in Bonn and Paris.

2. I propose to instal the KY70 in the existing secure speech room in the Office and two of the three extension instruments being provided with it in No.10 (the Study) and the COBR. May I please have agreement to this and advice as to the required location for the third extension instrument.

3. The US note which I have received outlining the proposed arrangements for the installation refers to "activation of the system in mid-July 1980". It remains to be seen if, on our side, we can meet this date; much will depend on our being able to find secure routes for the special cable used between the KY70 and the extension instruments.

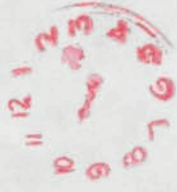
4. I am copying this to Mr Whitmore and Mr Wade-Gery.

J. L. Wright

J L Wright

3 July 1980

4 JUL 1980



Security

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JW
2i

Sir Robert Armstrong
Mr Whitmore ✓

Copy: Mr Wade-Gery
Mr Mills, FCC.

London-Bonn secure telegraph 'Hot Line'

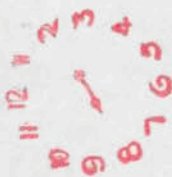
Arrangements have now been made for passing
messages securely and directly between the
Comcentres in the Cabinet Office and the
Bundeskanzleramt.

J L Wright

J L Wright
28 December 1979

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31 DEC 1979



CONFIDENTIAL

Security
JL VS



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

The Prime Minister has seen your minute AO651 of 14 November.

She agrees that we should accept the American offer and also seek to use their equipment for our links with Paris and Bonn. She is content for you to pursue your proposals with the Americans, the Germans and the French.

C. A. WHITMORE

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'C. A. Whitmore', written over the typed name.

20 November 1979

CONFIDENTIAL

(2G/3151)

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Copies: Sir Robert Armstrong
Mr Wade-Gery
Mr Whitmore
Mr Johnson (GCHQ)

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

fw

2x

LONDON-BONN SECURE TELEGRAPH AND SPEECH HOT LINES

Secure Telegraph

Accompanied by Mr Donald Holder from the British Embassy, Bonn, I discussed London-Bonn secure telegraph and speech arrangements with Herr Karscheiss, Herr Klammer and technical representatives from the Bundeskanzleramt on 14 and 15 November 1979. Considering the exchange of letters between Herr Karscheiss and myself, my telephone conversations with Herr Klammer and the discussion Sir Robert Armstrong had with Herr Schuler, I was surprised when Herr Karscheiss started by inviting me to explain why it was thought necessary to have a secure teleprinter link between No 10 and the Chancellery. Having done so, I was informed that the teleprinter Hot Line between Paris and Bonn had never been used in the year since it had been established. "Was it likely that any use would be made of a London-Bonn link," I was asked. We agreed that that remained to be seen and discussion turned to means of establishing a link. The Germans made much of the problems for them if the UK's ALVIS equipment were used to provide security and put up a very strong case for our adopting their ELCROTEL equipment which I turned down. This left us with the French equipment which we each hold for use with Paris. This proved to be something of a sticking point until it emerged that the only way the Germans could conceive of using this equipment was by asking the French to link together the existing Bonn-Paris and London-Paris circuits giving the French the means, as they saw it, to read messages between London and Bonn. I said that there could be no question of using existing circuits with Paris and that there was no need to involve the French in any way since all that would be necessary would be to extend one of the existing London-Bad Neuenahr circuits over the relatively short distance to the Chancellery and use the French equipment for which we would provide unique cypher

/material.....

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material. The Germans said that they would have "legal difficulties" with the Bundesposte if they tried to extend a circuit from Bad Neuenahr. They would see if they could find some way round this but asked if, meantime, I could suggest another way of providing a link. When I said that we could easily set up a new, direct, London-Bonn link, they expressed concern at the cost and returned to the theme of the amount of use likely to be made of a direct link. International TELEX being the only alternative remaining to us, it was left that, subject to resolution of a technical difficulty on their side (to do with use of the French equipment in the mode appropriate to TELEX operation) we will start by using TELEX. They will try to resolve the problem of extending a circuit from Bad Neuenahr and, if they can do so, we will use this route instead of TELEX if the amount of traffic between London and Bonn shows this to be necessary. I undertook to provide cypher material to enable tests to be carried out in the week commencing 26 November.

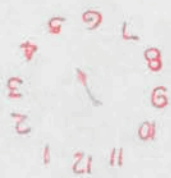
Secure Speech

2. Herr Karscheiss said he had been surprised to hear that Herr Schuler and Sir Robert Armstrong had discussed use of an equipment other than ELCROVOX. He asked if I would explain our objection to ELCROVOX and if I could tell him about the alternative equipment we had in mind. I said that it was well known that ELCROVOX (like most narrow-band secure voice systems) was not sympathetic to the female voice at which Karscheiss expressed doubts as to its sympathy with any voice! On the US offer of KY70 for Heads of Government use with the President, he claimed to have no information other than that their Ministry of Foreign Affairs had mentioned it to Herr Schuler. As the US offer had not yet formally been passed on to the Chancellery, he said he did not feel that he was in a position to pursue in any detail the question of a change in our secure speech arrangements. Nevertheless it was left between us that if the Germans do accept the US offer, we will use the US equipment between London and Bonn instead of ELCROVOX. It is implicit in this understanding that we will supply the cypher material.

J. L. Wright

J L WRIGHT
16 November 1979

CONFIDENTIAL



21 NOV 1979



CONFIDENTIAL

1.
Prime Minister

These proposals seem sensible.

Do you agree to them?

Yes
14 xi


Ref. A0651

MR. WHITMORE

Mr. Wade-Gery sent you a copy of a letter of 29th October from Mr. Streator in the United States Embassy offering United States equipment on free loan for secure speech between the President and the Prime Minister, the Federal German Chancellor and the French President. I am advised that the equipment is better in terms of speech quality than that now used with the White House. I therefore recommend that we accept the United States offer.

2. If we, the Germans and the French all take up the United States offer, it would make sense to use the equipment also between the three European capitals. The offer makes no provision for such use, but I understand that all that is necessary to be able to do this is to provide suitable cypher key material and that this can be arranged. Herr Schtler told me during our recent visit to Bonn that the Germans intend to accept the offer and that he would be prepared to consider using the United States equipment rather than the West German ELCROVOX between No. 10 and the Chancellery. We do not yet know if the French intend to accept the United States offer. But if they do we can safely assume that they will arrange for a link between Paris and Bonn. So I think we ought to go for one between London and Paris as well. So far we have had only a secure teleprinter link with the Elysee. But the cost of a secure speech link would in the new circumstances be negligible; and though we might not use the facility much it would surely be wrong in principle to leave London-Paris as the sole exception to a system under which the Head of Government in each of the four capitals could otherwise talk securely to each of the other three.

3. We have already established that the Americans would have no objection to our using for these extra lateral purposes the equipment they are offering to supply. They would not be able to listen in to our conversations with Bonn or Paris; each link would have its own unique cypher key, and we would not use an American-supplied key except for our link with Washington.



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4. If the Prime Minister agrees, we will pursue accordingly with the Americans, the Germans and the French. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office and GCHQ have been consulted and concur.

RA

(Robert Armstrong)

14th November, 1979

SECRET



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

LONDON

October 29, 1979

1. Copy (for advance *inf*)
to Sir R Armstrong
Th. Whitmore ✓

2. Mr. Wright
for draft submission
to No 10 as agreed
please.

CABINET OFFICE
B...4004...
30 OCT 1979
FILING INSTRU...
FILE No.

R. Wright
30/x

Mr. Robert Wade-Gery
Deputy Secretary
Cabinet Office
Whitehall, SW1 2AS

Dear Robert:

As you know President Carter has expressed interest in establishing a secure voice link between himself and the Prime Minister, the German Chancellor and the French President. Washington has been examining the feasibility of such an arrangement and is now prepared to proceed. The Embassy has been asked to encourage your government's participation in such a system.

The secure voice system which the United States is now proposing will have good voice quality including voice recognition. Utilizing ordinary international and local dial telephone systems, this secure voice link will use the most modern equipment available. It will be simple to operate, much like a regular telephone. When operational, each Head of State will have secure voice capability with the President. The United States proposes to provide hardware, installation, and maintenance for the system. Commercial telephone toll charges will be incurred with each use of the secure voice telephones. The side placing the call would bear the expense of the call.

I understand your experts have already had an opportunity to discuss with ours some of the technical aspects of the system we are proposing. If you require any further information, please let us know. We look forward to receiving your reaction to this proposal.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Streator
Minister

SECRET



30 OCT 1979

