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USCSB  
UNITED STATES  
COMMUNICATIONS  
SECURITY BOARD

COMSEC 8-/3  
17 March 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE MEMBERS, UNITED STATES COMMUNICATIONS  
SECURITY BOARD

SUBJECT: Final Report of the Computer Security Ad Hoc Committee

REFERENCES:



25X1

Inclosed is the final report of the Computer Security Ad Hoc Committee which offers for the Board's consideration two alternate recommendations (paragraphs 5. a. & b.). Members are requested to review these recommendations and indicate their vote on the attached sheet. All votes are requested to be returned to the ExecSec by Friday, 16 April 71.

Also attached are the comments received from the Members on the Draft Recommendation of the Computer Security Ad Hoc Committee, circulated to the Board on 4 Feb 71 for comment (COMSEC 8-WG-2).

. This memorandum may be declassified upon removal of Incl 2.



25X1

Executive Secretary

3 Incls:

1. Computer Security A.H.C. Rpt
- ~~2. Vote/Comments on Draft Recommendation~~ *See Incl 2*
- ~~3. Vote Sheet~~ *See Incl 3*



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

25X1



11 March 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN, UNITED STATES COMMUNICATIONS  
SECURITY BOARD

SUBJECT: Computer Security Ad Hoc Committee

REFERENCES:



25X1

Inclosed is the report of the Computer Security Ad Hoc  
Committee which is forwarded in response to your recommendation  
of 7 January 71.

The Ad Hoc Committee Members wish to express their  
appreciation for the cooperation and efforts of the staff of the  
Office of the Executive Secretary, USCSB, which contributed  
significantly to the accomplishments of the Committee's tasks  
in a timely fashion.

Upon acceptance of this report, we consider the Committee  
to be dissolved unless otherwise directed.



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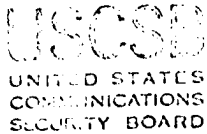
Chairman  
Computer Security Ad Hoc Committee

Incl:  
a/s

NOTE: The Chairman, USCSB  
accepted the Computer Security  
Ad Hoc Committee's Final  
report on 16 March 71. P.A. Pitts

*Incl 1*

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COMSEC 8-WG-3  
3 March 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE MEMBERS, UNITED STATES COMMUNICATIONS  
SECURITY BOARD

SUBJECT: Report of the Computer Security Ad Hoc Committee

REFERENCES: a.

b.

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1. The Computer Security Ad Hoc Committee, established on 7 January 71 (Reference a.) was charged with two tasks:

a. Consider the jurisdiction of the USCSB in the field of computer security, and,

b. Solicit comments from the entire Membership of the Board on this subject.

2. Accordingly, the Ad Hoc Committee met on 4 February 71 and drafted a paper (Reference b.) which reflected the views of the Committee Members to the effect that the USCSB is a proper national forum to address the problem of computer security and recommended sponsorship by USCSB of a standing committee to resolve the problem with representatives disciplined in the areas of computer technology, communications, and security. This paper was circulated to the Board Members for comments.

3. The majority of the Board Members had provided comments at the time this report was prepared. The comments received covered the spectrum of possibilities with four agencies concurring, two concurring with recommendations, several essentially maintaining the status quo, and two non-concurring with comments. Comments or recommendations included modification of the National Security Council Communications Security Directive to reflect the Board's authority in the subject area, coordination of any Board action with the Office of Telecommunications Policy, handling on a joint basis with USIB, and remaining essentially as is with the Board concerning itself only with COMSEC and EMSEC.

There does appear to be general agreement on two points, i.e., that there is a need for a national policy on computer security and that the Board has a role in computer security in the areas of COMSEC and EMSEC.

4. Discussion of the comments by the Ad Hoc Committee indicated the following:

a. That certain departments or agencies may not be organizationally structured to allow for easy resolution of a question of USCSB jurisdiction.

b. That others had standards for computer security ready for distribution and look upon reference of this subject to another authority with mixed emotions.


c. That there appears to be an absence of common understanding of the extent of COMSEC in modern-day systems. COMSEC has been classically interpreted as the application of cryptographic equipment to communication links. Today, however, the security of information in teleprocessing systems often employs computers to authenticate and direct classified information--the techniques of which are essentially COMSEC.

d. That there is no necessity to modify the Board's charter since the Board's role needs no expansion--we merely wish to note that COMSEC impacts on a wider base than previously.

5. In view of the above, the Ad Hoc Committee offers for the Board's consideration two alternate recommendations:

a. Adopt the majority view of the Board Members that the Board is the proper forum to sponsor the effort at the national level to resolve the problems of computer security through the establishment of a standing committee made up of members and OTP, with support from others disciplined in computer technology, communications, and security, or,

b. Establish liaison with USIB for the purpose of organizing a joint group to resolve the problem of computer security with participation by OTP as the joint group deems necessary.

  
Chairman  
Computer Security Ad Hoc Committee

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