~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



MARSIX

cy to A1

ADG → A/ASD

18 VDU's are presently planned: 14 for CH & 4 for SM. Of the CH VDU's, ~~4~~ 8 are planned to go into the CH vault for Tempest reasons, the remainder to go into the 1st floor area

Can you

a. confirm that the figure of 14 is a valid requirement for CH

b. confirm that the CH VDU siting is ok.

A/ASD

Tempest decision by Mr Jones

21-10-53

The figure of 14 is based on CH's stated requirements to SM , and I am happy to endorse it. However this is the ideal or preferred total number as now perceived by CH, and I understand that there is to be a phased buildup to that figure. We could survive with fewer terminals, but at the cost of inconvenience and delays in cryptanalysis and program development work. We want to avoid the problem of analysts competing for access to the computer.

The proposed siting is not acceptable. We cannot operate VDUs in the vault, and to group them into a TEMPEST-proof shelter would be most disruptive to section operations (as well as costly and difficult to achieve). To locate terminals on the 1st floor for use by CH analysts is a return to the dark ages and should be resisted.

EXAMINED

My feeling is that we are making altogether too much of the TEMPEST problem. It is already surrounded by a lot of emotionalism and should never be seen in black and white terms. What we need is a rational and objective assessment of the risk

21/10/53

ASD