

~~TOP SECRET FROTH~~

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30th June, 1954.

COLOROB

Controller of Joint Service Organisations :-

The following draft is submitted for inclusion in Programme proposals :-

The cryptanalytic tasks of the Branch involve large-scale mathematical processes which can be carried out only with the assistance of machinery. The machinery at present in use consists of both desk-type calculators and punched-card ("Hollerith") statistical equipments. Certain tasks have now become so complicated that this machinery is no longer effect<sup>we</sup>ed, although it is required for the other less-complex cryptanalytic processes.

2. Solution of the more complex problems is possible only with the assistance of high-speed electronic computing machinery specifically designed for cryptanalytic purposes. Such machinery is not available in Australia, and D.S.B. is now unable to <sup>undertake</sup> cope with certain of the cryptanalytic tasks for which it is responsible.

3. G.C.H.Q., London, which has extensive experience in the design and construction of high-speed cryptanalytic machines, is about to construct for its own purposes a general purpose equipment which would also meet the present and foreseen requirements of the Defence Signals Branch, and has offered to build a second machine for purchase, if required, by this Department. In view of the specialized nature of the equipment, purchase from G.C.H.Q. is considered to be the only practicable method of procurement. G.C.H.Q. has stated that the total cost, including ancillary equipment, would be approximately £A40,000.

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of which approximately £35,000 would be required in 1955/56 (when the equipment should be delivered) and the balance (for ancillary equipment) in 1956/57. It is intended to propose the ordering of the equipment early in 1954/55; the total commitment (£40,000) would then be outstanding at 30th June, 1955.

R. N. THOMPSON

(R. N. THOMPSON)  
DIRECTOR, D.S.B.

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