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DAILY ENTERPRISE



(U) HISTORY TODAY - March 31, 2016

FROM: CCH

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(U) Directions on completing the 1960 U.S. Census



(U) NSA's Director Lt. Gen John Samford, USAF, circulated a March 31, 1960 memo with advice about the upcoming national census.

(U) The memo noted that census takers were going to conduct interviews with every fourth American household in the course of the 1960 census. General Samford offered guidance to employees about answering any questions concerning their employment.

(U) At that time, NSA was barely known to the public, and employees were regularly and strictly cautioned to maintain anonymity about their job.

(U) First, Samford suggested using the old chestnut of saying the head of the household was "employed by the Federal Government, Department of Defense," and that your employer is "engaged in U.S. Government business."



(U) Lt. General John Samford, USAF

(U) Next, the question of occupational title could be finessed: many jobs needed no further description than "administrator, instructor, electrician, stenographer, clerk, telephone operator, librarian, etc." Other jobs required "some serious thought." The DIRNSA suggested that there were general descriptors that were both "adequate and innocent;" he suggested "analyst, researcher, linguist, technician, editor."

(U) If it was anticipated that another member of the household might be questioned, the husband or wife or other person should be informed of the suggested responses. If an employee had any doubts about the way to answer employment questions on the census, the question was to be discussed with the person's immediate supervisor.

(U) The authority for a periodic census goes back to the U.S. Constitution. It provides for a national census every 10 years.

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