

THE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY’S RELEASE OF ALL ISSUES OF ITS TECHNICAL PERIODICAL, “CRYPTOLOG”

WHAT IS BEING RELEASED?

The National Security Agency is releasing all 136 issues of one of its longest-lived technical publications, *Cryptolog*. This released collection encompasses well over a thousand articles covering a cross-section of the disciplines and focus areas of the Agency, and is over 4,400 pages. This release is monumental not only in terms of its size but also in terms of the broad spectrum of NSA functions and activities the release reveals.

WHAT IS NEW IN THIS RELEASE?

Cryptolog was created in 1974 and was, according to the editor, “a new vehicle for the interchange of ideas on technical subjects.” Another editor called it “a mix of technical, expository, philosophical, futuristic, argumentative and historical articles – with a light touch here and there – there’s always an article or two to engage the reader.”

Issues of *Cryptolog* were published initially on a monthly basis, but in the final years of its publication, were released on a quarterly basis. There were no issues published in 1993 and the final issue was released in July of 1997.

Never before has NSA taken on the release of an entire collection, like *Cryptolog*, which was designed for the interchange of ideas on technical subjects in what was originally referred to as the Operations side of NSA. While there were other smaller specialized magazines, some organization-based, some subject-matter based, not all areas and disciplines were represented, and distributions were limited. *Cryptolog* was created to improve this situation by allowing for the discussion of very specific subjects in the cryptologic sphere, and its level of informal exchange invited short articles and letters on any subject of interest. The release of *Cryptolog* reveals information about operations at NSA over a period spanning more than 20 years with a breadth not previously seen in an NSA release.

WHY IS THIS MATERIAL BEING RELEASED NOW?

In addition to other declassification initiatives, NSA/CSS periodically conducts “Special Topical Reviews” of categories of records, such as the Gulf of Tonkin, USS Liberty, UKUSA, and most recently, the Pueblo incident, and posts those records to the NSA.gov website. Past responses to NSA’s Special Topics release, from both the general public and academia, have been extremely positive. In choosing Special Topics, NSA attempts to respond to subjects for

which there have been numerous requests for review for declassification, as is the case with the release of *Cryptolog*.

NSA is committed to Transparency and Openness. The Agency recognizes that the sum value of these documents is significant to NSA's history and to the public understanding of our functions and activities.