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SECRET

(b)(3)-P.L. 86-36

An Exchange of Memos

TO : B605

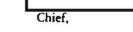
THRU : B62

FROM : B6205

SUBJECT: Editing Rules for the SEAS

- 1. A fault of sorts in SEAS reports Has come to our attention Although a slight and trifling blight, It's nevertheless worth mention.
- By rights, you see, the SEAS should be Quite flawless in design: A classic thing that well might bring Sweet tears to eyes divine.
- 3. It ought to be invariably Perfect to the letter, Serene in view, similar to The Bible, only better.
- 4. The problem now is simply how To keep the SEAS consistent. The document is by intent Consistency-resistant.
- Ostensibly, the number "three" To use a quick example, Is written out. Without a doubt The rules are plain and ample.
- We have to add that, good or bad, The SIGINT Manual notes "Use digits for all numbers more Than nine except in quotes."
- And yet the SEAS is, by degrees, Changing over to digits. An intermix of 6 and six Appears, like feisty midgets.
- The figure "10" is now and then Written as a number. And then again, it comes up "ten" Which looks a whole lot dumber.
- We feel chagrined, trapped in the end, Hating the label "OH-fiver" As if the Pope were sniffing dope While posing as Lady Godiva.
- Aghast, forlorn, our honour shorn, Our dignity impaled, Our image gone, we struggle on Wondering where we failed.

- 11. We turn to you, the mentors who Can save us from disaster Oh tell us please, within the SEAS Of which you're lord and master:
- 12. For our input from head to foot To meet some kind of norm, When should we use the 1's and 2's And when the written form?



TO : B6205

THRU : B62

FROM : B605

SUBJECT: Reply to B62/407-67

 Though we haven't the time to expend on rhyme That exists in B62, We were of a mind to reply in kind To your critical review.

B6205

- We never pretend to work toward the end Of unreachable perfection; But we appeal to your honest zeal And your sense of self-direction.
- The rules, we confess, have sometimes been less Than easy to understand And appear, no doubt, to leave you without An answer on either hand.
- Though we may agree that the number three Should always appear as a word,
 We must, of course, adhere to the source To which the TECHINS referred.
- 5. A foolish consistency deadens existence: see How this verse is blest With changes, by damn, in meter: iamb To dactyl and anapaest.
- We think you'd do better to loosen, unfetter, Your fine editorial skill, Rather than waste your inherent good taste In a digit-or-number drill.
- 7. Therefore, a number need not encumber Your style, so long as the rule For usage is clear, your effort sincere, And you never relinquish your cool.

B605

HANDLE VIA COMINI CHANNELS UNLY

SECRET 27

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09-26-2012 pursuant to E.O. 13526, FOIA Case #	
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