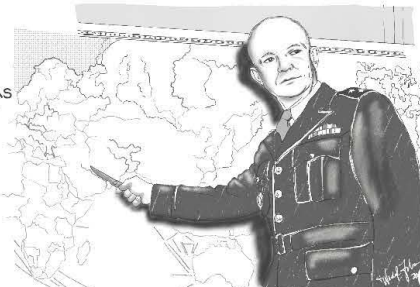




JULY 2020

CRITICAL COMMUNICATIONS #006

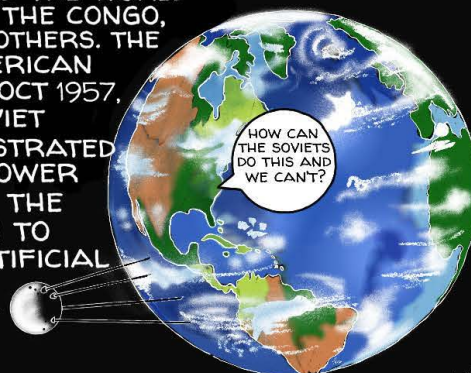


DWIGHT EISENHOWER TOOK OFFICE AS PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES IN JANUARY 1953.

HIS LIFETIME AS A MILITARY OFFICER AND AS COMMANDER OF THE MULTINATIONAL FORCE THAT DEFEATED HITLER'S GERMANY IN WORLD WAR II TAUGHT HIM HOW TO MAKE DECISIONS THAT AFFECTED THE LIVES OF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE. HE KNEW ALL SUCH DECISIONS BEGIN WITH TIMELY AND ACCURATE INFORMATION.

EISENHOWER AS PRESIDENT FACED CRISES AROUND THE WORLD--- BERLIN, CUBA, THE CONGO, AMONG MANY OTHERS. THE AVERAGE AMERICAN FELT FEAR IN OCT 1957, WHEN THE SOVIET UNION DEMONSTRATED ITS MISSILE POWER BY BECOMING THE FIRST NATION TO ORBIT AN ARTIFICIAL EARTH SATELLITE--- SPUTNIK.

(спу́тник)



"GENTLEMEN, WE HAVE MANY MOMENTOUS DECISIONS AHEAD OF US. I BELIEVE I AM NOT GETTING INFORMATION ABOUT THESE CRISES IN GOOD TIME. IT HAS TO COME TO ME FASTER."



PRESIDENT EISENHOWER MET WITH THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL, COMPOSED OF THE MOST SENIOR OFFICIALS IN THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT WHO HAD RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE COUNTRY'S DEFENSE AND FOREIGN POLICY.

YOU MUST CREATE A SYSTEM THAT PUTS CRISIS INFORMATION ON MY DESK WITHIN 10 MINUTES AFTER YOUR DEPARTMENTS LEARN ABOUT IT.



(GASP...)

GRAVES B. ERSKINE, RETIRED MARINE CORPS GENERAL, CHAIRED A MEETING OF PENTAGON EXPERTS TO PLAN HOW TO MEET THE PRESIDENT'S REQUEST.



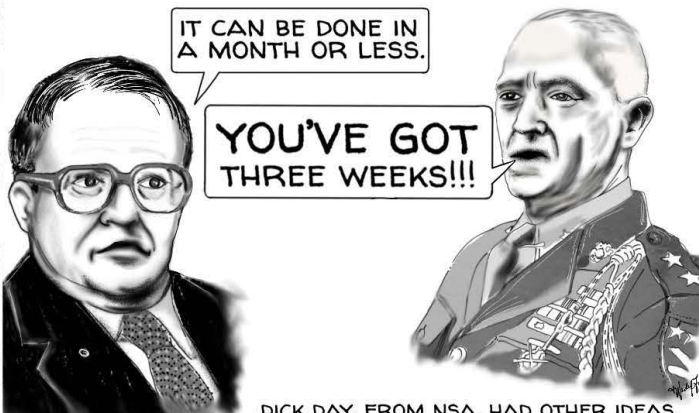
NSA SENT NAVY CAPTAIN ARTHUR ENDERLIN & MR. RICHARD DAY, A CIVILIAN COMMUNICATIONS EXPERT. GENERAL ERSKINE HAD COMMANDED TROOPS IN THE INVASION OF IWO JIMA -- NOT A PERSON TO BE TRIFLED WITH.



NONE OF THE PENTAGON EXPERTS AT THE MEETING THOUGHT THAT THE RESULTS WOULD COME SOON.

IT CAN BE DONE IN A MONTH OR LESS.

YOU'VE GOT THREE WEEKS!!!



DICK DAY, FROM NSA, HAD OTHER IDEAS.

LET'S DO IT.



DICK DAY WORKED WITH NSA PERSONNEL TO DRAW UP A PLAN USING EXISTING COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT IN INNOVATIVE WAYS. A SENIOR OFFICIAL BRIEFED THE PLAN TO THE PRESIDENT. "IKE" WASTED NO TIME IN MAKING A DECISION.



THIS BECAME KNOWN AS "CRITICAL COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM," OR "CRITICOMM." MOST OF THE SYSTEM WAS OPERATIONAL BEFORE DWIGHT EISENHOWER LEFT OFFICE IN 1961, BUT SOME FAR-FLUNG COMPONENTS WERE NOT READY UNTIL JOHN KENNEDY BECAME PRESIDENT. IN THE DECADES SINCE THEN, THIS SYSTEM HAS BEEN AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN HOW U.S. PRESIDENTS AND OTHER SENIOR LEADERS MAKE MAJOR DECISIONS.