



Exploding The Phone

db859

www.explodingthephone.com

Bibliographic Cover Sheet

Title **FBI File 87-HQ-131276: Multi-Frequency Generator...; FBW**

Date 1974-03-25

Author(s) FBI

Abstract Investigation regarding new blue box disguised as a desk calculator.
 Response memo from FBI Lab notes that the it is the "most accurate
 blue box yet submitted" and "utilizes linear integrated circuits
 (operational amplifiers)... double sided circuit board, precision
 resistors, and transistorized switching."

Keywords FBI; blue box; desk calculator

Notes Obtained as part of FOIPA 1065071 (phone freaks).

Source FBI via FOIA

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This file contains:

- 87-HQ-131276
- And a bunch of assorted field office files that resulted from spam sent out from HQ to all field offices. These were mostly filed in 87-xx-00-xxxx where xx is the field office code.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 3/25/74

FROM : SAC, LOS ANGELES (87-36701) (P)

SUBJECT: MULTI-FREQUENCY GENERATOR
USED TO CIRCUMVENT THE
BILLING OF LONG-DISTANCE
TELEPHONE CALLS (BLUE BOX)
FBW

Enclosed for the Bureau, Dallas, and the Minneapolis Divisions are two copies of two photographs each of a new type of blue box device which is being manufactured in the Los Angeles, California, area.

On 2/19/74, [redacted] advised that he had acquired a multi-frequency generator utilized to circumvent the billing of long-distance telephone calls (a blue box) from a source in the Los Angeles area who had in his possession 5,000 circuit boards which would be utilized in the manufacturing of these blue boxes. Informant related that this blue box was in the form of a desk calculator.

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REC-106

Informant related that the blue box in this form would be a problem to any agency which was seeking such a device unless the agency was aware of its present form.

In view of the fact that many offices throughout the Bureau are in the process of conducting investigations of a Fraud By Wire nature involving the blue box devices, copies of photographs of this device in its present form are being furnished to the Minneapolis and Dallas Divisions for their information. Copies are also being furnished to the Bureau with the suggestion that these photographs be distributed to other offices who are conducting investigation regarding this device.

- 2 - Bureau (Encls. 4) (RM) / CC + 2 ENC.
2 - Dallas (Encls. 4) (RM) / PWD FAX LTR
2 - Minneapolis (Encls. 4) (RM)
3 - Los Angeles

(1 - [redacted])

PEO/rsr

7 MAY 14 1974

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan



LA 87-36701

The Los Angeles Office at the present time is obtaining photographs of the interior of this blue box and upon completion of this examination and photographing, it will be transmitted to the Radio Engineering Section of the FBI Laboratory for their perusal.

The informant is continuing to ascertain the identities of the individuals responsible for the manufacturing of this device and its distribution.

Investigation continuing at Los Angeles concerning instant matter.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO DIRECTOR, FBI
ATTN: FBI LABORATORY

DATE: 4/9/74

FROM SAC, LOS ANGELES (87-36701) (P)

SUBJECT MULTI-FREQUENCY GENERATOR
UNIT TO CIRCUMVENT THE
BILLING OF LONG DISTANCE
TELEPHONE CALLS,
(BLUE BOXES),
FRAUD BY WIRE

Re Los Angeles letter to the Bureau dated
3/25/74.

Enclosed, under separate cover, for the Radio
Engineering Section, FBI Laboratory, is a blue box
simulated to represent a desk calculator, one black case,
and one ear plug, along with instructions to utilize this
box.

[redacted] acquired enclosed blue box from one of
his sources in the Los Angeles area. He indicated these
blue boxes are being produced in the Los Angeles area and
that approximately 5,000 circuit boards are being utilized
in the manufacturing of these blue boxes. He related the
blue box has been made in a form of a desk calculator and
would not be detected in a search of the premises by police
officers looking for a blue box.

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The device is activated when the ear piece is
plugged into the calculator and the set is turned on.

EX-113 REC-48
The information furnished by the informant has
been made available to the Pacific Telephone Company as
well as the General Telephone Company, of the Los Angeles
area in order that they may be aware of this new type of
blue box device.

21 APR 12 1974

The informant has furnished the Los Angeles
Division of the FBI with this new type of blue box device
and this device is being sent to the FBI Laboratory, Radio
Engineering Section, for their examination and need not
be returned to the Los Angeles Division.

3 - Bureau
(1 - Package copy) (Attn: Radio Engineering Section)

2 - Los Angeles

(1 - [redacted])
FEQ/bab



MAY 15 1974 U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

LA 87-36701

Within the last two weeks special agents of the Pacific Telephone Company conducted a search of the residence of an individual in the Los Angeles area seeking a blue box and found five of the type which the informant furnished the Los Angeles Office.

SAC, Los Angeles (87-36701)

June 11, 1974

Director, FBI (87-131276)

1 - Mr. Gebhardt
(Attn: Mr. L. S. Mohr)

**MULTI-FREQUENCY GENERATOR
UNIT TO CIRCUMVENT THE
BILLING OF LONG DISTANCE
TELEPHONE CALLS (BLUE BOXES),
FRAUD BY WIRE**

Re Los Angeles letter 4/9/74, forwarding a blue box for retention by the FBI Laboratory.

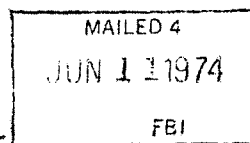
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The Radio Engineering Section has had an opportunity to examine the device you submitted. It will be particularly useful in making comparisons with similar devices which may be submitted in the future. Its disguise as a desk calculator is effective and in operation it is probably one of the most accurate blue boxes yet submitted.

The device uses linear integrated circuits (operational amplifiers) as oscillators providing a high degree of reliability. Its double sided circuit board, precision resistors, and transistorized switching are all indicative of its sophisticated design. Overall, the device has the appearance of having been commercially produced.

Assoc. Dir. _____
Dep. AD Adm. _____
Dep. AD Inv. _____
Asst. Dir.: _____
Admin. _____
Comp. Syst. _____
Ext. Affairs _____
Files & Com. _____
Gen. Inv. _____
Ident. _____
Inspection _____
Intell. _____
Laboratory _____
Plan. & Eval. _____
Spec. Inv. _____
Training _____
Legal Coun. _____
Telephone Rm. _____
Director Sec'y _____

JPW:meh
(6)



EX-110

REC-67

(SEE SERIAL 1)

87-131276-3

JUN 12

57 JUN 11 1974

MAIL ROOM ☒ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

Airtel


To: SAC, Albany

6/19/74

b6
b7c

From: Director, FBI

H
MULTI-FREQUENCY GENERATOR
UNIT TO CIRCUMVENT THE
BILLING OF LONG DISTANCE
TELEPHONE CALLS (BLUE BOXES),
FRAUD BY WIRE

1 - 
1 -
1 -
1 - Each Assistant Director

Attached for all Offices are two copies of a photograph of captioned blue box.

A Los Angeles source recently acquired this blue box which is being produced in the Los Angeles, California, area.

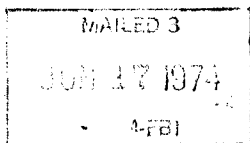
An examination by the Bureau Laboratory, Radio Engineering Section, revealed the following noteworthy characteristics of this blue box:

1. It is disguised as a desk calculator and has appearance of being commercially produced.
2. Most accurate blue box yet to be submitted.
3. Utilizes linear integrated circuits (operational amplifiers) as oscillators providing a high degree of reliability.

[Handwritten signature]
Enclosures (2)

2 - Each Field Office (Encl - 2) *EX-117*

Assoc. Dir. _____
Dep. AD Adm. _____
Dep. AD Inv. _____
Asst. Dir.:
Admin. _____
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Inspection _____
Intell. _____
Laboratory _____
Plan. & Eval. _____
Spec. Inv. _____
Training _____
Legal Coun. _____
Telephone Rm. _____
Director Sec'y _____



JY:mel
(135)

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐



REC-47

NS
87-1315226-4
15 JUN 19 1974

SEE NOTE PAGE 2. . .

Airtel to SAC, Albany
RE: MULTI-FREQUENCY GENERATOR UNIT

4. Has a double sided circuit board, precision resistors, and transistorized switching, all of which are indicative of its sophisticated design.
5. Blue box is activated when ear piece is plugged into the calculator and set is turned on.

The above should be brought to the attention of appropriate personnel of each Office and security personnel of telephone companies.

NOTE: This airtel describes and attaches photographs of a highly sophisticated unusual blue box submitted by a Los Angeles source recently. The airtel describes noteworthy characteristics of this blue box which was examined by the Radio Engineering Section of the Laboratory. The unusual nature of this blue box necessitates all Offices and appropriate security personnel of respective telephone companies to be made aware of this blue box.

FBI

Transmit in _____ Via Airtel
(Type in plaintext or code)

(Precedence)

6/19/74

(Date)

To: SAC, Albany

From: Director, FBI

~~MULTI-FREQUENCY GENERATOR
UNIT TO CIRCUMVENT THE
BILLING OF LONG DISTANCE
TELEPHONE CALLS (BLUE BOXES),
FRAUD BY WIRE~~

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2. Most accurate blue box yet to be submitted.
3. Utilizes linear integrated circuits (operational amplifiers) as oscillators providing a high degree of reliability.

Enclosures (2)

Field Office (Encl - 2) - ICC destroyed

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 Agents
Copy

 Date 6/21/74
WSS/dls

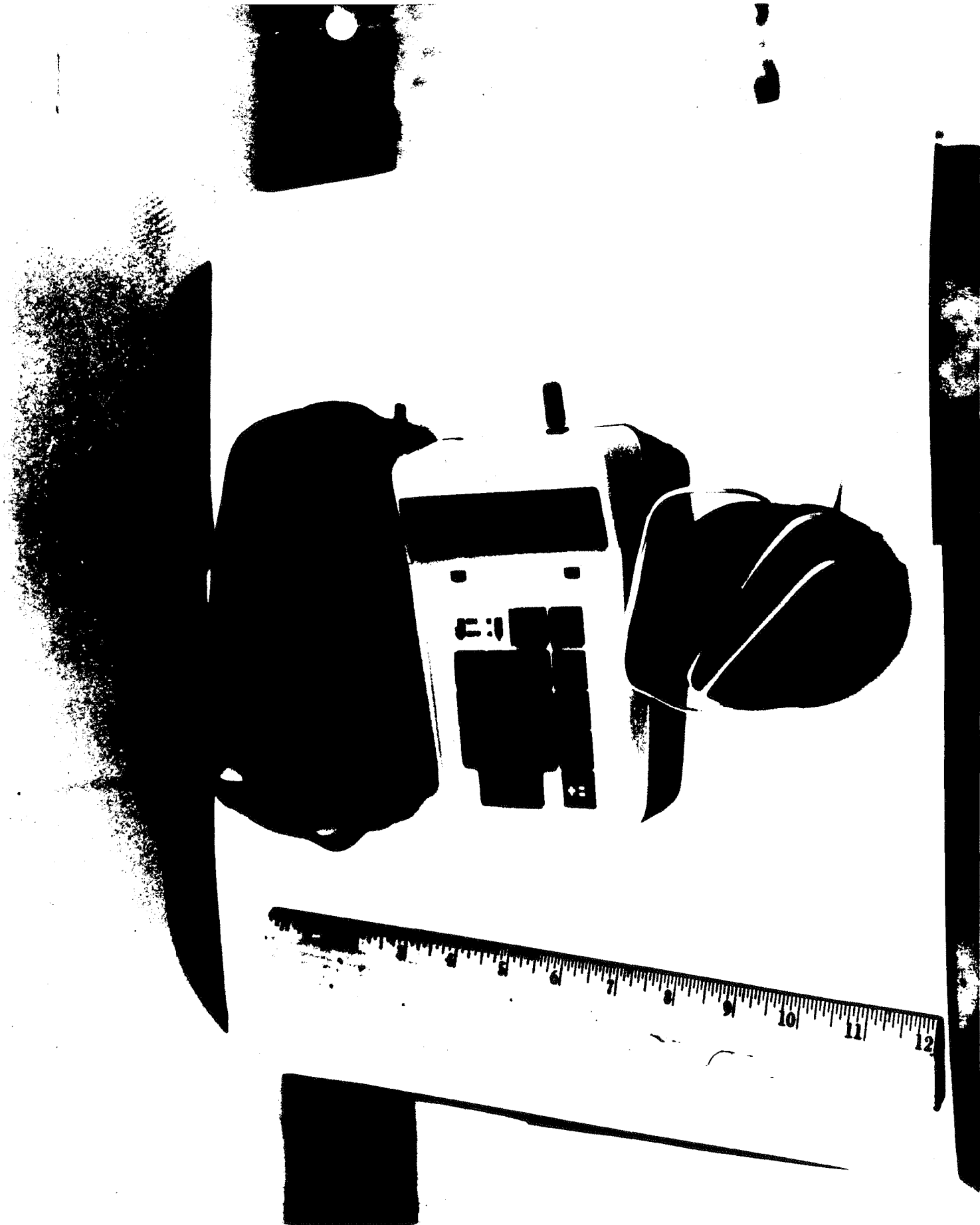
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SAC let
with one photo
to R/AS

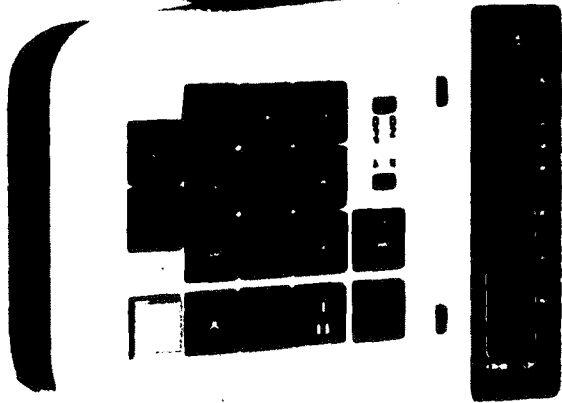
87-00-301

Airtel to SAC, Albany
RE: MULTI-FREQUENCY GENERATOR UNIT

4. Has a double sided circuit board, precision resistors, and transistorized switching, all of which are indicative of its sophisticated design.
5. Blue box is activated when ear piece is plugged into the calculator and set is turned on.

The above should be brought to the attention of appropriate personnel of each Office and security personnel of telephone companies.





1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12



FBI

Transmit in

Via Airtel

(Type in plaintext or code)

(Precedence)

To: SAC, Albany

6/19/74

(Date)

From: Director, FBI

~~MULTI-FREQUENCY GENERATOR
UNIT TO CIRCUMVENT THE
BILLING OF LONG DISTANCE
TELEPHONE CALLS (BLUE BOXES),
FRAUD BY WIRE~~

2 copies

Attached for all Offices are two copies of a photograph of captioned blue box.

A Los Angeles source recently acquired this blue box which is being produced in the Los Angeles, California, area.

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Enclosures 2

2 - Each Field Office (Encl - 2)

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87-00-170

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 20 1974	
FBI - ANCHORAGE	

1 ASAC JEB
2- see p. 2

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Airtel to SAC, Albany
RE: MULTI-FREQUENCY GENERATOR UNIT

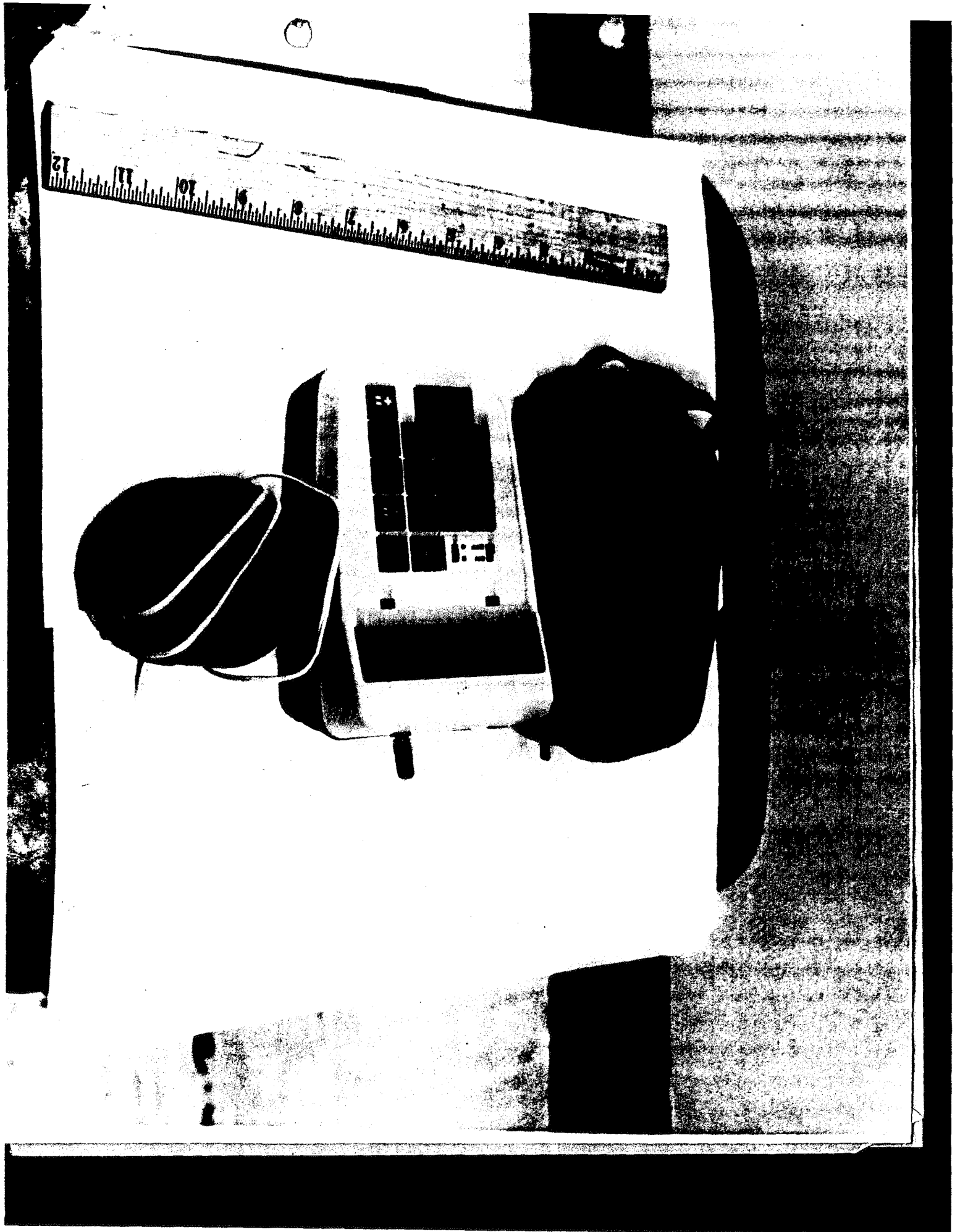
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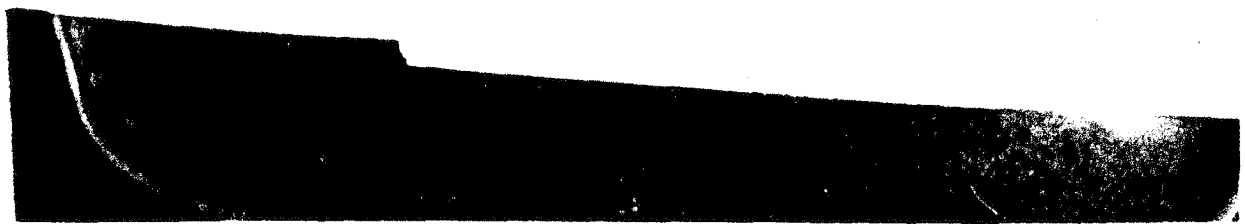
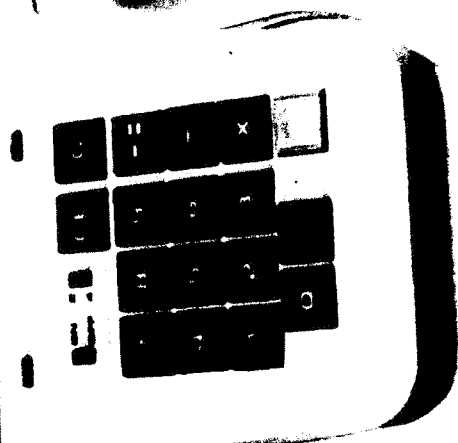
The above should be brought to the attention of appropriate personnel of each Office and security personnel of telephone companies.

ATU
[Redacted]
Paul [Redacted]
Advised
MUS. FOK. [Redacted],

[Redacted] [Signature]

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b7C





FBI

Transmit in Via Airtel
(Type in plaintext or code)

(Precedence)

6/19/74

(Date)

To: SAC, Albany

From: Director, FBI

MULTI-FREQUENCY GENERATOR
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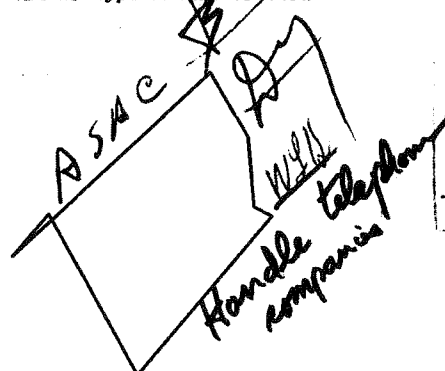
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amplifiers) as oscillators providing a high
degree of reliability.

Enclosures (2)

2 - Each Field Office (Encl 2)

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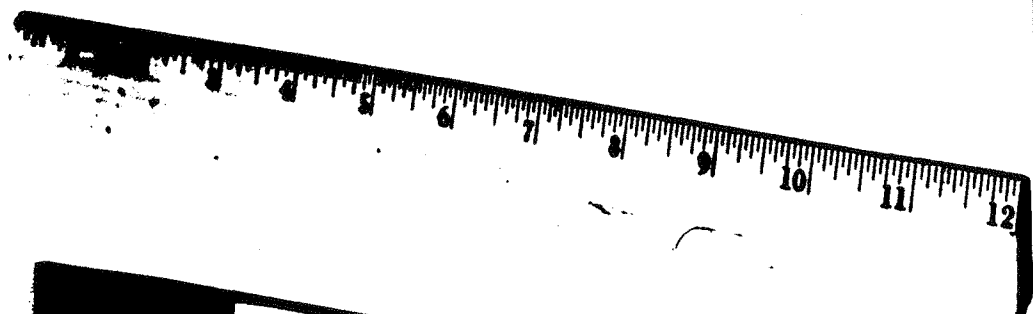
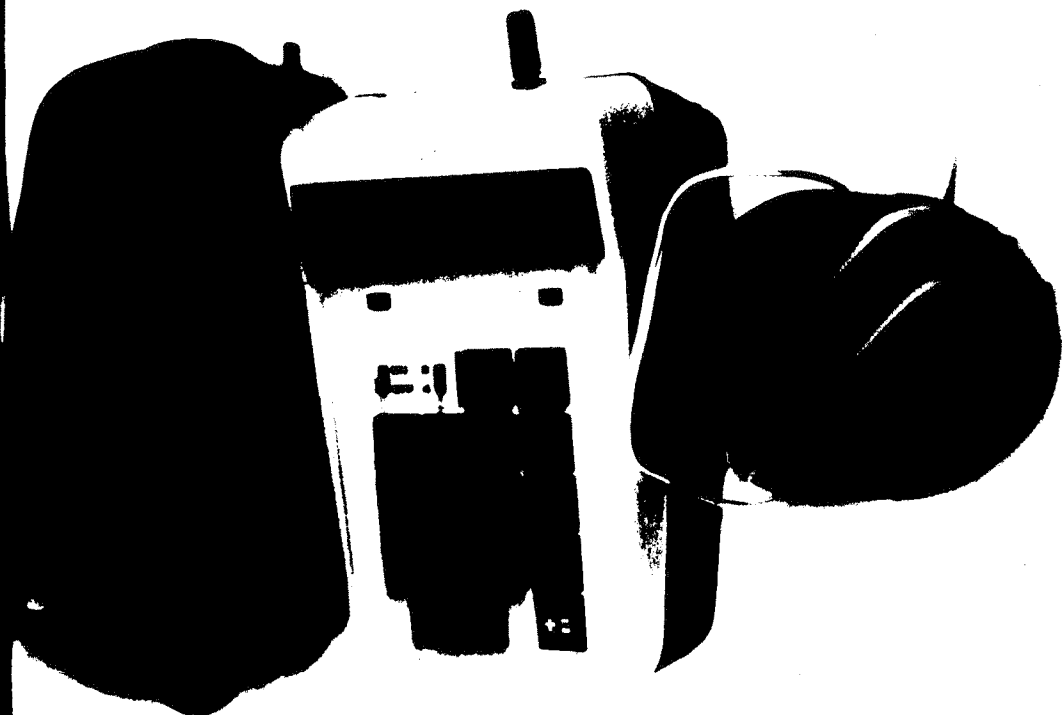
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Airtel to SAC, Albany
RE: MULTI-FREQUENCY GENERATOR UNIT

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FBI

Transmit in _____ Via Airtel
(Type in plaintext or code)

(Precedence)

6/19/74

(Date)

To: SAC, Albany

From: Director, FBI

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UNIT TO CIRCUMVENT THE
BILLING OF LONG DISTANCE
TELEPHONE CALLS (BLUE BOXES),
FRAUD BY WIRE

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Enclosures (2).

2 - Each Field Office (Encl - 2) *RI*

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Make [unclear] [unclear]
NO

87-00-204A

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 21 1974	
FBI - CINC	

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Airtel to SAC, Albany
RE: MULTI-FREQUENCY GENERATOR UNIT

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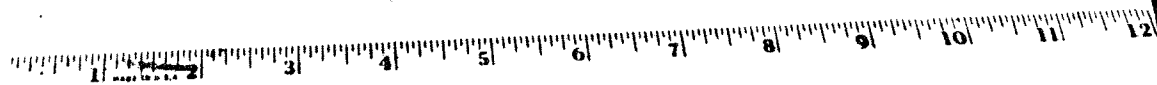
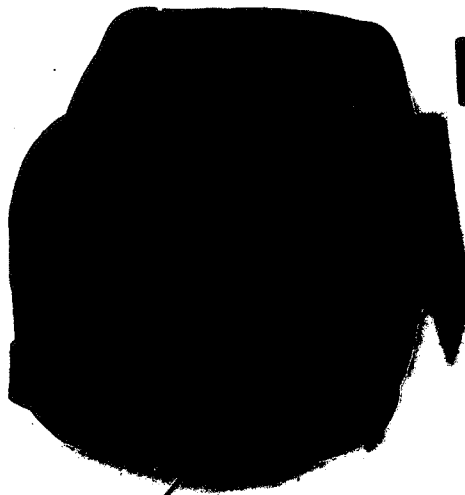
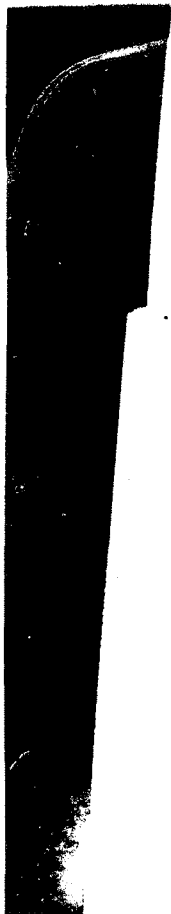
87-00-204-1A1
File No.
Date Received 6/18/74
From Director
(Name of Contributor)

.....
(Address of Contributor)

By
(Name of Special Agent)
To Be Returned Yes ()
No (X)

Description:

2 photos of Blue Boy



22

