DOUBLE COLUMN TRANSPOSITION – PART 1

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Introduction

The Double Column Transposition (DCT) cipher was one of the most popular hand ciphers in the 20th century. It was extensively used from World War I to the Cold War by all sides.
With long enough keys (longer than 20) and if different keys are used for the first and second transposition, it is very difficult to break this cipher – even with modern computing equipment and methods.

This series offers several mid-level DCT challenges, rated at Level II, with keys shorter than 20 or with other weaknesses, which should allow for their cracking using Hill Climbing or other computerized methods.

Good luck!

MysteryTwister C3
THE CRYPTO CHALLENGE CONTEST

Challenge

Decrypt the ciphertext on the following slide and use the first two words of the plaintext as solution.
Please make sure to submit the words in capital letters and without a space.

Challenge – Ciphertext

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ONAEHTISHLAEAILOHINEBLRFSDWAAAWDCAEUYAIHGINUMUBEOMEHELA
TWMHFFOHRSMORDSUEOERDTMOUESNNAIIDHRPLDTSRHAHIENTCAPEEWN
HOROEFTTDSERNONAHERVLNOELAHSSAMTGUFEDDOTINNEIOOLTTIRMMW
SCSISWOHISHAVHRIMOHENTOISIETTENQUEREWYNIKYLEACLOYHTETAT
EOROOSUWTOOLAWMEGIOUDALEBNUFIHRBRBNNKLOHANRLEUSLNUTEOER
SUIITHILATTETHOMIAFFIEDSIEEASSYITINAWMTEREAOCASTSNDYNCB
EBBHBSSNDOAHWAFTTTMOSWITICETATTEOMBGNOSEMRHAFEEOWMPTSTF
IGEEMMHLSSINETRRBTGEAOINTMNNUESOSRSEDNNYARPSNNUMEOINFEU
IALHDRWARTWWRNLHSNEESHSOHYNEROHHTTEWEIREANALEFNPDEEDCHO
EOOIOMTDCEITNIEAMNMISIOSRARRYMLO
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Hints

- The plaintext is in English.
- The keys are derived from English words, expressions, or sentences.
- The length of the first transposition key is 13 and the length of the second key is 16.