

Wednesday, 24 September 1952

rwj

PRESENT: General Smith, Messrs. Wisner, Becker, Hedden, Col. White, Mr. Earman

HR70-14

General Smith:

a. After reading and discussing the memorandum prepared for the President in connection with the [REDACTED] case, directed Messrs. Becker and Hedden to rewrite this memorandum along the lines contained in the above discussion.

Colonel White:

a. Reported that [REDACTED] had returned to the U.S. and was being "washed out."

b. Noted that Houston had authorized our "two people" [REDACTED] to obtain counsel for defense and CIA would defray the expenses connected therewith. Mr. Becker recommended and the DCI approved submission of legislation to the Congress which, if approved, would authorize CIA to retain legal counsel "outside" the Agency. In this connection, Mr. Becker noted that retention of such counsel was not a new departure for Government and, in fact, existed in other Government agencies.

Mr. Wisner:

a. Raised the question of the contents of the forthcoming presentation on merger and reduction of projects. The Director stated time did not permit discussion of this matter at today's Deputies' Meeting; however, he intended to ask questions during the presentation.

b. Referred to a cable from the Senior Representative, Tokyo (IN 38374) concerning Admiral Overesch's recommendations on MERLIN and stated it was the consensus of his people that Overesch be allowed to go ahead and work this problem out. The DCI approved.

c. Noted that he had forwarded to the Director [REDACTED] regarding the material we had sent him concerning Burgess and MacLean and, while [REDACTED] was warmly appreciative of receiving this material, he (Mr. Wisner) did not believe that [REDACTED] would furnish us much more information on this matter.

(CONTINUED)

~~TOP SECRET~~
[REDACTED]

Mr. Wisner (Cont'd.)

S. 9-29-52

d. Referred to the discussion held at the Deputies' Meeting on 22 September concerning a certain matter on which the President had been briefed by [redacted] should look into this situation from an "offensive" point of view. The Director stated that nothing would be done in this regard at this time in view of the Presidential directive on the subject at hand. (NOTE: (1) Mr. Wisner advised [redacted] of the Director's decision; (2) Mr. Earman undertook to furnish a copy of the above-mentioned Presidential directive to DD/P and advised him of the DCI's instructions that Col. Edwards initially handle this matter with Pat Coyne.)

e. Noted that (1) recently Mr. Dulles had held a discussion with two individuals who were proposing to establish an [redacted] and that these two people had an appointment with the President today; (2) he believed they had initially been sent to us by "somebody" in the White House; (3) in their discussion with our people, it was indicated that they were seeking MSA and State support. In response to a query from the Director, Mr. Wisner stated these people had offered us intelligence information and cover. After some discussion, the DCI stated that (1) he had no interest in this matter unless DD/P could assure him that the Organization in question actually had something to offer us; (2) we would break off our talks with these people; (3) in future similar cases, we should not become involved.

[redacted]



~~TOP SECRET~~

