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06063-2278

1 - AUG 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Legislative Counsel

SUBJECT: S. 920, a Bill to Amend Sections 303 and 310 of the Communications Act of 1934, as Amended, with Respect to Alien Amateur Radio Operators

1. In response to your request of 29 July, the Deputy Director, Plans, has reviewed S. 920, a bill to amend sections 303 and 310 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, to permit the Federal Communications Commission, if it finds that the public interest, convenience, or necessity may be served, to issue authorization for alien amateur radio station operators to operate their amateur radio stations in the United States, its possessions, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, provided there is a bilateral agreement between the United States and the alien's government for such operation by United States amateurs on a reciprocal basis.

2. As was explained at some length by the Department of Justice in its recommendation on this bill, the security aspects of the proposed legislation are a factor of major and continuing importance. The experience of CIA shows that radio communication is a vital factor in espionage operations, especially in so-called "illegal" operations employing agents under deep cover. Such communications play an equally significant role in the operation of sabotage networks and, indeed, in any foreign controlled subversive activity requiring high-speed communications for which diplomatic channels are not available. Any relaxation of present legal provisions

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governing the licensing of amateur radio operations that might facilitate such communications would not, we believe, serve the public interest.

3. Accordingly, we do not favor the revision of present legal provisions that are proposed in S. 920.



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Richard Helms
Deputy Director (Plans)

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