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17 September 1963

MEMORAN DUM FOR: John S. Warner
Legislative Counsel

SUBJECT: Security Aspects of Proposed Wording
of S. 920 Relating to Alien Applications
for Amateur Radio Licensing in the
United States

REFERENCE: Memorandum for Assistant Legislative
Counsel, Dated 1 August 1963, 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. We have considered the proposed amendment to S. 920 on security aspects pertaining to alien applications for amateur radio licensing. We believe the Agency's position should remain disagreement on principle, as suggested in reference and reflected in this Agency's reply in August to the Bureau of the Budget.

2. The principle of reciprocity in this matter is not sufficient, we believe, to outweigh the serious security risks which the country would undergo by permitting aliens to operate radios even under the provisions of the proposed amendment.

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Good preventive security is based, whenever possible, on exclusion by category. Aliens are such a category; and in the area of amateur radio operation, the denial of the right is not outweighed by the advantages which would accrue to Americans abroad.

3. It is our view that the proposed amendment does not close the door sufficiently. However, any realistic concern for domestic security problems leads us to the conclusion that if this bill is going to be passed, it is better with the amendment than without it. We would recommend in that case that the word "forthwith" be omitted from the second part of the amendment.

4. We have this additional thought. Although it must be acknowledged at the outset that CIA by law is excluded from matters involving domestic security, the Agency has the obligation by a constructive reading of the statute to speak out forthrightly on matters involving aliens who are, ipso facto, individuals that originate in areas within the Agency's jurisdiction by law. We are impressed by the fragmentation that has developed in the treatment of aliens, and the apparent lack of concern with assuring uniformity, if not centralization,

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in handling ~~of~~ their problems. This bill will further fragment the domestic approach to the problem by adding the FCC to the list of agencies which already are making decisions with respect to alien conduct. As a minimum, it seems to us, United States security requires an absolute assurance of the closest coordination among FBI, I&NS, and the FCC in these matters.



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1. John S. Warner
Legislative Counsel

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