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18 June 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Matters Relating to Fiscal Support and Possible Transfer of Functions of the Office of Geography-Interior

REFERENCE: Memorandum for the Record dated 20 August 1954 signed by Otto Guthe

1. Last week I received a telephone call from Dr. M. F. Burrill, Director of the Office of Geography, Department of the Interior. He called to inform me about (1) matters relating to fiscal support for the Office of Geography, and (2) a tentative proposal of the Department of the Interior for transfer of some of the functions of the Office of Geography to CIA.

2. Early last week Dr. Burrill was called before the Defense Appropriation Subcommittee to answer questions regarding fiscal support for the Office of Geography for Fiscal Year 1957. He replied that, since the Office of Geography received no direct appropriation from Congress, it relied entirely upon other agencies' fiscal support; and for Fiscal Year 1957 he anticipated some $15,000 would come from the Air Force and [redacted] He was then asked by the chairman why the Office of Geography did not seek direct support through Interior's budget. He replied that while he had repeatedly attempted to do so, Interior had not seen fit to approve requirements of the Office of Geography in its budget. During the course of the interview he indicated that from a practical point of view the Office of Geography should seek direct appropriations in the amount of approximately $500,000 in order to adequately carry out its statutory functions. The chairman of the subcommittee did not indicate what future action he might take in this matter.

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3. With respect to the second topic, Dr. Burrill said he had recently been called down to the Assistant Secretary's office and shown a draft of a letter to be sent to the DCI from the Secretary, Interior, requesting that the responsibilities and functions of the Office of Geography pertaining to NIS Gazetteer work, and the responsibilities pertaining to the Foreign Names Committee, be assumed by CIA. Dr. Burrill indicated that under the proposal responsibilities for domestic name standardization were to be transferred to the Geological Survey. Dr. Burrill said he had opposed

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this proposal on the grounds that separation of functions of the Office of Geography would considerably weaken administrative control and result in ineffectual operations.

4. The following day Dr. Guthe called me to say that he had also heard from Dr. Burrill on this matter. It was Dr. Guthe's opinion that a brief of this conversation together with a staff study should be undertaken immediately. I advised against this on the grounds that the proposal was still tentative, and until we actually saw the letter we could not adequately analyze its implications. I also pointed out that I was not sure that the letter would be written in view of Dr. Burrill's objection to the proposal. Dr. Guthe concurred in my suggestions.

5. It is interesting to note that a somewhat similar proposal was made by Department of Interior officials to Dr. Guthe and me, as indicated by reference memorandum. The present proposal differs, however, in that certain statutory functions relating to domestic name standardization, which could not properly be carried out by CIA, are now proposed for transfer to another bureau of the department rather than to CIA.

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[redacted]

cc: Chief, D/P/BI

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