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DIARY NOTES

Executive Director-Comptroller



26 July 1965

1. The Director called me this morning and talked with me about a cable from Ambassador Taylor which came in last night before six o'clock and was not brought to his attention until this morning. He expressed his feeling that everybody relaxed on weekends around here and asked me to consider again whether we should not have a Senior Duty Officer on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. After the morning meeting, at which this incident was also discussed, I met with [redacted] Peer de Silva, Paul Borel, and [redacted]. I assigned to Peer the responsibility for determining exactly what happened in this particular case and making appropriate recommendations to me for appropriate changes in procedures. I assigned to Paul the responsibility for examining existing SOPs and making appropriate recommendations for changes which will satisfy the Director. I emphasized that we will need to have Saturday, Sunday, and holiday Senior Duty Officers unless we revise our SOPs so that when the Watch Office calls the Director and gives him information of this kind they can also tell him what senior official is taking action, etc., etc. The Director is given information and apparently is told nothing about who is doing what about the situation. This leaves him feeling rather "naked" and that he has to issue some orders. It seems that the Watch Office should either tell the Director exactly who is doing what or perhaps the AD/CI, DD/I, or DD/P should be called first and they can in turn call the Director. In any case, I am waiting for Peer's and Paul's reports.

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2. Dick Helms advised me that he had talked with the Director about the personnel problems we might encounter in beefing up our South Vietnam station since we have been sending the same people there for many years without dependents, etc. He said that a proposal would be coming forward recommending special privileges for these people and he hoped that I would be sympathetic. I assured him that I would.

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4. I lunched with Joe Becker and talked about the ADP problem. We came to some tentative conclusions. The first question we need to answer

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is whether we can centralize and maintain the same security and the same service that we have today with a decentralized system. Joe feels that this can be done. However, the Office of Computer Services will not have its new computer equipment for more than a year and the case will not be proven for at least a year and a half. It seems that under these circumstances we are justified in continuing the decentralized principle of operation at this time. However, at the same time we should insure that the decentralized units are not buying equipment or taking other actions which would be incompatible with a centralized system at some later date. If the answer to the first question is that we can centralize and still have the same service and security, then we must look into the question of economy.

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[redacted] then this must be considered most carefully. I told Joe that I did not look with favor upon the appointment of an Assistant for Computer Activities at the Executive Director level. This seems to me merely to be kicking the problem upstairs with no improvement whatever in current operating procedures. The Agency does need an individual or an office which acts as its staff component for computer matters. But as I see it, this should be the Office of Computer Services and I think their situation should be very analogous to the Office of Communications. We might also give some thought to the organization of a career service. This would be short of putting all the computer activities under the Office of Computer Services regardless of their physical location. This, of course, would be most unpalatable to people at this time, but I am convinced that we must have tighter central control over these activities in the future than we have had in the past. In this connection, Joe said that he had been unable to get the regulation on his missions and functions published for over a year. I assured him that we would get something issued before long and that I would make it very clear to all concerned that we could no longer afford to be parochial in this field.

5. Bob Bannerman and Emmett Echols talked with me about their nepotism study and I later talked with Dick Helms about it. We are agreed that we do not have any serious problem at the moment, but that for the long haul we should watch this very closely and dependents should be as widely separated from their principals in the functional organization as possible. This, of course, does not prejudice Career Trainees or others who may want to follow in their mother's or father's footsteps and have a career in CIA.

6. I talked with Larry Houston about a number of problems.

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a. He plans to go on leave on Saturday, 31 July, and be gone most of August. I cleared this with Dick Helms. Larry pointed out that there was no Deputy Chief of ExComAir but that he knew of no urgent matters which needed to come up during his absence. I asked him to expedite his report on the [redacted] which I think must be considered in our up-coming budget hearings.

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b. Larry also talked with me about the Office of Special Activities' complaint against [redacted]. OSA has not come up with very dramatic examples to support their case and Larry felt it would be a little silly to make a special trip to the West Coast to appeal to [redacted] on the slim evidence we have. I agreed and asked him to draft a letter for the Director's signature.

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c. Larry briefed me on Senator Eastland's attitude, or at least Jay Sourwine's attitude, on the defector bill and I gave him my permission to brief Dick Helms personally and get his reaction. The gist of it is that Senator Eastland feels that he wants to go forward with some kind of a bill although he is perfectly willing to put in a statement to the effect that this will not affect existing legislation in any way.

d. He also wants to brief Dick personally on a suit in which two of [redacted] are involved. I asked Larry to report to me after he has talked with Dick on these matters.

7. I telephoned [redacted]

[redacted] to tell him that the Secret Service in Washington had no record of his son-in-law's application for employment. I suggested that he get in touch with [redacted] and find out what happened. He was most appreciative.

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