

October 10, 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Meeting of the Special Group (CI)
2 p.m., Thursday, October 10, 1963

PRESENT: Governor Harriman, General Taylor, Mr. Forrestal, Mr. Nitze
vice Mr. Gilpatric, Mr. Coffin vice Mr. Bell, Mr. Wilson vice
Mr. Murrow, Mr. Karamessines vice Mr. McCone, Mr. Nolan vice
The Attorney General

Mr. Grant, Mr. Symmes and Mr. Padelford were present for Item
No. 1.

Ambassador Bell, Mr. Cottrell and Mr. Kincaid were present for
Item No. 2.

Mr. Jordan and Mr. Engle were present for the meeting.

1. Internal Security Survey of the Near East and South Asia

Mr. Grant, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern and South Asia
Affairs, presented a summary review of the State memorandum submitted for
this item. He elaborated on the situation in each country covered by the
assessment and answered questions on specific points raised by members of
the Group.

Mr. Grant stated that the approved definition of subversive insurgency
was utilized in this assessment to place countries in the various categories
of insurgency. This definition states that subversive insurgency is
primarily Communist inspired, supported, or exploited. The insurgency threat
in most of the countries in this area can be identified as being subject to
Communist exploitation. The countries required to prepare Internal Defense
Plans, have a friendly government to work with, and these plans will serve
as a guide for U.S. actions and negotiations by the Country Teams.

Mr. Grant commented that since this assessment was initiated, a number
of special action recommendations have been approved, and programs are now
underway as the various departments and agencies are aware of the Group's
interest in stimulating action on projects related to internal security.
In all cases, State supports the Country Teams' recommendations made in
this assessment other than those for Greece and Lebanon and proposes to
request that an Internal Defense Plan be prepared for Saudi Arabia.

To counter the potential insurgency problem in Nepal, it is proposed to
conduct a police survey and explore with the Indian Government a joint pro-
gram to increase the effectiveness of the security forces. Although the
situation in Ceylon is slowly deteriorating, the U.S. has very little
opportunity for action in the internal security field.

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Mr. Grant concluded by stating that in this area of the world, we are faced with insurgency problems which can be exploited by the Communists. Diplomatic efforts are considered to be of primary importance to reduce tensions and inter-country rivalries.

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The Group discussed the effect of the Hickenlooper amendment on AID Programs in Ceylon and in other countries in the Near East. Although recognizing that this amendment has caused some problems, the Group agreed with the Chairman's observation that this issue should be left as it stands for the present.

The Group, in noting the assessment, commended those responsible for its preparation and requested that it be kept informed of actions taken on recommendations contained in the State memorandum.

2. Progress Report on the Internal Defense Plan for Guatemala

Mr. Cottrell, in commenting on the progress report, stated that the Government of Guatemala appears to be making moves to return to constitutionality with the result that the political situation is improving. The economic situation does not look bad and applications for U.S. assistance are being processed as rapidly as possible. The subversive insurgency threat has considerably diminished since the last progress report.

Ambassador Bell, in presenting his views on the situation, stated that the Peralta Government has made good progress to accomplish its principal objectives to instill honesty in Government and to rid the country of Communists. Encouraging progress is being made to establish an effective However, problems still remain in developing more effective procedures to work with the responsible Guatemalan ministries in order to keep our aid programs moving. Efforts are being made to correct this situation. In his opinion, Peralta is firmly in control and not in immediate danger of being overthrown. He cautioned that return to constitutionality will take some time and we should maintain quiet pressure on Peralta to achieve this goal.

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The Group discussed the proposal made by Mr. Cottrell to remove Guatemala from the Critical List and it was agreed that no action will be taken at this time. The Group agreed that the next progress report should be submitted in six months and at that time the Group will reconsider the status of Guatemala. In the mean time, the Group requested that it be kept informed of any unusual developments.

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3. Assessment on Ecuador

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The Group agreed that Ecuador would be retained on the critical list and its status will be reviewed when the revised Internal Defense Plan is considered by the Group. It was further agreed that the revised Internal Defense Plan should be submitted as soon as possible.

Miscellaneous

A. Mr. Forrestal stated that the draft joint message on the increased use of Special Forces and mobile training teams in underdeveloped countries did not stress how maximum utilization could be made of Special Forces units.

General Taylor commented that this is a good message, but he did not believe it was responsive to the President's request that Special Forces should be utilized more frequently to show the flag in underdeveloped countries. Mr. Forrestal agreed to contact General Krulak and incorporate these observations into a new message.

B. The report of the Interagency Working Group on Venezuela was noted and it was agreed that the situation is very tense but it appears that everything feasible is being done at the present time. The Group agreed with Mr. Nitze's suggestion that the Latin American Policy Committee should review measures being taken to curb terrorism in Venezuela to insure over-reaction does not take place which would alienate other Groups within the country.

James W. Dingeman
James W. Dingeman
Executive Secretary
Special Group (CI)

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