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DM-434

DEPUTIES' MEETING

Friday, 30 September 1955

PRESENT: Mr. Dulles, General Cabell, Mr. Wisner, Col. White,  
Dr. Kent, Messrs. Kirkpatrick, [redacted]

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Mr. Dulles:

a. Referred to a State cable to Hanoi [redacted] containing instructions on closing the US Consulate there and noted he intended to call Ken Young in the State Department after the Deputies' Meeting in order to determine whether a final decision has been made to close this Consulate. The Director said he was strongly of the opinion that: 1) this Consulate should be kept open and its officers [redacted] remain until such time as the local government formally demands that it be closed; 2) if such action is taken, the US should make a strong public protest; 3) in the meantime Amb. U. Alexis Johnson, who is presently in Geneva, should be instructed to complain to Wang Ping-nan about the treatment being received by the staff of the US Consulate in Hanoi. Mr. Wisner said if it should be determined that this Consulate be closed it had been

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General Cabell:

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b. Raised the question of CIA's legal position in retaining employees who have reached the statutory age and required length of service for retirement. General Cabell said a case in point is a secretary now assigned to the Secretariat of USCIB, and suggested if we can legally do so she should be retained for a year, particularly in view of her knowledge of USCIB activities. Mr. Kirkpatrick said he believed Civil Service regulations in this regard are not binding on CIA in view of the Director's statutory authority to hire and fire. Col. White undertook to get an opinion on this matter from Legal Counsel and furnish his recommendations to DDCI.

Mr. Wisner:

a. Noted he was seeing Amb. Rankin on Monday, 3 October. The Director suggested DD/P advise Rankin that: 1) in view of recent reports we have somewhat changed our thinking on the "longevity" of [redacted] 2) this information was passed by General Cabell to Senator Knowland; 3) Rankin might wish to stop over in California on his return to Taiwan and discuss this matter with the Senator.

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Stated that "last summer" [ ] in considering division programs had approved certain of these but within limit, budget ceilings. A case in point he said was TSS which has now expended funds allotted for outside contracts and has requested guidance as to whether a request for additional funds or discontinuance of these contracts should come through the [ ] to the Director. Col. White noted that since the program in question had been approved by the [ ] it was his opinion that DD/P now has to decide whether he has funds within his area which can be allotted to continue these contracts. ACTION: DD/P and DD/S.

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Mr. Kirkpatrick:

Noted that Sen. Mansfield has returned to Washington from his trip and asked the Director if he wished to see him. The DCI indicated that he did and asked the IG to arrange this appointment late next week. Mr. Wisner suggested that some of the area people be standing by and the Director approved.

Col. White:

a. Reported that the plans for the training base at [ ] are not yet ready for signature and it now appears that the construction will not be completed before 1 January 1957. Mr. Dulles remarked that he had always been a "little leery" of this project and asked if it was absolutely necessary that CIA go through with it. It was the consensus of those present that we should, and in reply to the Director's question as to whether we would have sufficient bodies to keep this base fully occupied, Messrs. Wisner and [ ] noted we would if present plans for training programs go through.

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