

ASSISTANT DIRECTORS' MEETING

AGENDA

Director's Conference Room, First Floor
Administration Building
on Monday, 3 January 1955, at 1100 hours

Challenge of 1955

MR. DULLES

Latin American trip

GENERAL CABELL

Handling of Top Secret Material

MR. KIRKPATRICK

Proposed Change in the 1 February
National Intelligence Orientation

MR. BAIRD

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1. Mr. Dulles opened the meeting by welcoming [redacted] presently in Washington for consultations.

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2. Mr. Dulles then remarked that he felt 1954 had been a year of most constructive achievement and that he was particularly pleased with advancements in the Administrative field, career planning, etc. In this connection he commented that he hoped additional reasonable reductions in overall personnel strength could be effected in 1955, although he did not look for drastic cuts. He stated that he hoped 1955 would see an end to investigations except for those conducted by the I.G.

3. Mr. Dulles stated that whenever a bad situation develops in the world the NSC tends to assign more and more duties to the CIA. Mr. Dulles is resisting this tendency but believes that inevitably we will be called upon for additional work.

4. Mr. Dulles mentioned the recent appointment of Mr. Nelson Rockefeller as Advisor to the President with liaison duties between the President and CIA. Mr. Dulles called this a constructive appointment and commented that Mr. Rockefeller is a good friend of CIA.

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5. At Mr. Dulles' request, [redacted] made the following comments concerning the situation in the Far East.

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Japan. Developments in Japan are not to be viewed with alarm. Yoshida could no longer command respect and his eventual removal from office had been evident. Hatoyama may be able to consolidate very well and remain in power. He has good support and can put on a vigorous campaign despite poor health. Ogata is convinced that the Communists are strongly supporting and financing the Socialists in preparation for the forthcoming elections. If the socialists win we can expect trouble but it is believed they are not strong enough at present to take the elections. If Hatoyama wins he will probably have to make some trade-with-China concessions but not many.



TOP SECRET



General Cabell then gave a resume of his recent trip through Latin America. He stated that the primary purpose of his trip was not operational but rather to see as many of our people as possible. At each station he assembled our personnel for a round table discussion and endeavored to cover the following points:

1. All personnel, particularly supervisors, must strive constantly to help raise the competence of all agency employees.
2. Identify those persons who are not pulling their weight and if they cannot or will not improve they must be disposed of since mediocrity cannot be tolerated.
3. All station personnel were encouraged to take a greater interest in the Agency over-all; to know who DD/I, DD/P and DD/A are, and to be more fully cognizant of broad aspects of the organization, rather than just their own small component. In this connection, General Cabell noted that he received an enthusiastic response at all stations to his suggestion they they receive a periodic news letter from Headquarters.

General Cabell remarked that living conditions were pleasant at all stations visited and urged Agency components other than DD/P to look for people in their offices who would like to serve field tours. He commented that such rotation should be encouraged.

General Cabell concluded his remarks by stating that he was extremely pleased with the very high type of personnel he found in our stations and that their relationships with the various Embassies were excellent.

Mr. Dulles suggested that perhaps it would be advisable for departing field personnel to be briefed by ONE and possibly other components of DD/I in order to give them a broader picture of the organization and its requirements. Messrs. Wisner, Amory and Kent agreed that this might be helpful.

In response to Mr. Dulles' request in the last Assistant Directors' meeting, Mr. Kirkpatrick made a few remarks concerning the handling of Top Secret material. He concluded that if present Top Secret control procedures are properly followed there should not be any problem.

Mr. Baird distributed draft copies of his proposed revision of the National Intelligence Orientation course. The new course will consist of only 2 days rather than 4 and will emphasize significant developments rather than training as such. It will thus eliminate duplication of material given in other training courses.

Mr. Wisner commented that, in connection with Mr. Dulles' previous remarks concerning some reduction in personnel and at the same time an increase in NSC assigned duties, the two were compatible provided we had the right people. He felt that we should continue to bear in mind the necessity for continuing selective recruitment. In this connection Mr. Reynolds remarked that it would be helpful to the Personnel Office to receive firm, definitive recruitment requisitions rather than general ones. He also stated that he would like to have a one hour conference with each station chief prior to his departure. Mr. Dulles then stated that he wanted all supervisors to be sure they prepare accurate fitness reports on their subordinate personnel. He pointed out that if a man is not competent then he should not be given an excellent fitness report as that makes it most difficult to terminate his employment. Mr. Dulles mentioned that a recent NSC discussion involved giving CIA personnel who are not suited for employment here a chance in other agencies. Efforts will be made to place them through ~~CSS~~ facilities.

Col. White remarked that an examination of expenditures for the first five months of FY 1955 reflects that our budget will carry us through the year comfortably. He emphasized that consideration should be given now, not later, to any new projects which various components have been delaying initiating. Mr. Dulles commented that at the same time we should continue to review marginal projects for possible elimination.