

Frank:

The following items came up at the Deputies' Meeting on 23 December on which you should follow up:

1. Briefing for Congressman Cannon on Friday, 6 January, beginning at 10:00 a.m., and probably lasting all day. John Warner is to get in touch with Ken Crosby and find out from him what we should be prepared to talk about. In short, as I understood it, John is to draw up the agenda of items Crosby thinks Chairman Cannon wants to hear about, to include from our side our proposal for early retirement and the number of people in the new building. As for the early retirement question, you will recall that Mr. Cannon, and we believe Crosby in particular, had some misgivings about this proposal and we have therefore been biding our time until we could talk directly to "the Chairman" about it.
2. Briefing for Secretary McNamara. General Erskine called General Cabell and advised him that sometime after 3 January Mr. McNamara would receive a five-hour briefing on "the Department of Defense" and CIA had been allotted one-four of the five. There was quite a discussion about this, particularly since it was not clear from the Erskine call whether this briefing was to cover Defense as a whole or just the intelligence aspect. Mr. Dulles at the meeting had some misgivings about our participation in an over-all Department of Defense briefing whether it be on the Department as a whole or limited to its intelligence activities -- since this might possibly give the erroneous impression that CIA is in fact either a part of or subordinate to DOD. At any rate, General Cabell undertook to get in touch with General Erskine and obtain more details about the briefing at which time the boss will decide how we are to proceed. I might add there was somewhat of a difference of opinion in the discussion, with the boss and Dick Helms feeling that any CIA briefing given to McNamara should be done separately and apart while General Cabell and Bob Amory felt we should take advantage of the opportunity and give the new Secretary what we could in an hour and arrange to have him alone for a longer period at a later date -- in fact, Dick Helms put forth the suggestion that the Director should take the initiative and call McNamara and arrange a time for him to get a "straight out and out CIA briefing." **NOTE P.S.**
3. Mr. Herter told the Director that he had had an opportunity to read the report of the Joint Study Group and was ready to

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sit down with the other principals and discuss it. The boss commented he did not think this would take place until after the first of the year but said in the meantime, and in any event, he wanted to sit down with "those around the table" and discuss the report among ourselves and possibly this could be done next week.

4. As of the moment, Governor G. Mennen Williams is coming in on Wednesday, 28 December, for a briefing prior to his trip to Africa. This has been scheduled for 9 a.m., on that date and it was agreed that it should be heavy on the operational side. Dick Bissell undertook to have Bronson Tweedy draw up a proposed agenda for the Director's approval. It was also agreed that it might do no harm to have a couple of OCI boys ([redacted] and [redacted] were mentioned) to sit in the background to chime in on intelligence matters as they might arise. Incidentally, the governor arrives in Washington on Tuesday and indicated he would call us and let us know how much time he could give us. Since there is a USIB meeting scheduled at 10:30 on Wednesday, I suggest you call the governor's secretary in Michigan on Tuesday and see what you can find out.

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P. S. General Cabell did get in touch with Erskine and found out that the five-hour briefing in question will be limited to the "Erskine office." Apparently it was therefore suggested that it might be well for CIA to take one hour of the five. The Director has been advised and told General Cabell he would call Secretary Gates about this on Tuesday, 27 December. I have written him a note reminding him to do this and Barbara will give it to you on that day to put on the boss' desk.