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June 1, 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Allen W. Dulles  
Director  
The Central Intelligence Agency

SUBJECT: References to Radio Broadcasting to Cuba

In accordance with your request, I have had the official OCB minutes searched for references to U. S. radio broadcasting to Cuba.

The official minutes, covering the period from January 1, 1960 to January 11, 1961, contain six items on the subject. These items have been extracted and are appended herewith for your information.

Bromley Smith  
National Security Council Staff  
(formerly OCB Executive Officer)

Attachment:

Extracts from OCB minutes  
re Broadcasting to Cuba.

State Dept. review completed

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EXTRACTS FROM OFFICIAL OCB MINUTES DURING PERIOD JANUARY 1, 1960 TO JANUARY 11, 1961, RELATING TO U. S. BROADCASTING TO CUBA

March 16, 1960

b. U. S. Medium Wave Radio Broadcasts to Cuba

Discussed the difficulty of sending a strong medium wave radio signal to Cuba from the U. S. and noted an estimate by the U. S. Information Agency that it might take eight months and an expenditure of \$1 million to develop such a U. S. Government-owned facility. Agreed on the desirability of the fullest use of those few radio and TV facilities still available in Cuba.

Agreed that the highest priority should be given immediate and longer range actions to develop an operational capability to broadcast a strong medium wave signal throughout the Caribbean region in order to make the voice of the U. S. available to radio listeners in the area. Noted that the USIA would review its estimate as to the time and amounts involved in developing such a capability which is required now to meet the situation in Cuba, but which needs to be kept available for possible future use in situations which may develop in other countries in the Caribbean.

March 23, 1960

d. U. S. Medium Wave Broadcasts to Cuba

Noted briefing by the U. S. Information Agency of the financial and other considerations involved in the construction of a U. S. Government-owned facility to send a strong medium wave signal to Cuba from the U. S. Noted an engineering estimate that it would require a 500 KW transmitter, probably costing \$2 million and taking one year for construction. Agreed to resume discussion of this subject at the luncheon meeting next week.

March 30, 1960

a. U. S. Medium Wave Broadcast to Cuba

Resumed discussion of this matter, including the possible use of "Stratovision," a plan to broadcast to Cuba a TV program from an airplane flying over U. S. territory or international waters, and agreed to resume discussion of the matter after the Director of the U. S. Information Agency returns to Washington.

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April 6, 1960

c. U. S. Medium Wave Broadcasts to Cuba

Noted a short statement by USIA on this subject, which was reported on in last week's Board minute (Agenda Item 5 a.). Noted that both Projects Alligator and Stratovision appear to be technically feasible and do not present serious legal difficulties; however there may be political problems stemming from possible radio reprisals by the Cuban Government.

July 13, 1960

b. Cuba

Discussed developments and U. S. actions with respect to the situation in Cuba. Noted that the Department of State will examine the matter of the issuance of visas to Cubans planning to enter the U. S. Noted certain steps that have been taken to improve radio contact with the Cuban people.

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