

*Reg. Asst*  
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SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

Executive Registry  
7-3663

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SECRET

July 26, 1955

Dear Allen:

The Department and FOA (now the International Cooperation Administration and a part of the Department) have felt for some time that the Economic Defense Program needs additional support on the intelligence collection front. This need is especially acute with respect to collection of data on clandestine shipment of strategic goods to the Soviet bloc.

Experience has demonstrated that requirements for this data can best be met by covert collection. However, it has been found that the relatively low priority currently assigned to East-West trade intelligence results in inadequate collection support.

The Department believes that it may not be appropriate to approach this problem by seeking a change in priorities already established.

Informal discussion among members of our staffs and that of FOA/ICA have suggested that it may be possible to increase the clandestine collection of East-West trade data without changing the priorities structure and possibly with some benefit to projects which stand higher on the IPC scale.

I would appreciate it if you could have this matter looked into by appropriate officers and let us know what steps might, in your opinion, be taken to provide additional East-West trade data without conflict with existing priorities. We shall be glad to provide more detailed statements of collection requirements to assist you in your study of the problem.

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[Redacted signature area]

Sincerely,

*[Handwritten signature: W. Park Armstrong, Jr.]*  
W. Park Armstrong, Jr.

The Honorable  
Allen W. Dulles,  
Director of Central Intelligence,  
Washington.

State Department review completed

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