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ERB-2604/a

13 JUN 1956

Dr. James R. Killian, Jr., Chairman
The President's Board of Consultants
on Foreign Intelligence Activities
Executive Office Building
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Dr. Killian:

This is to acknowledge your letter of May 12, 1956, transmitting certain suggestions and requests from the Board. This is to advise you of the actions taken in regard to each request and, in one instance, to seek clarification. I will deal with the items as numbered in your letter.

1. Your first suggestion relates to a semi-annual review of "delegations of over-all authority" by the Director of Central Intelligence. Technically speaking, there are, I believe, no instances where I have delegated authority assigned to me by statute or by executive action. In certain cases as, for example, with respect to the so-called "agreed activities," my authority, pursuant to NSC action, is to be shared with certain other intelligence agencies and certain responsibilities are placed on this Agency to act as a coordinator. If I am correct in my assumption that your first point relates to this coordinating function, I shall see that a report is made on a semi-annual basis regarding the steps we have taken to effect such coordination. There are, of course, certain other areas of intelligence work where projects are carried out on the basis of allocating particular tasks to particular agencies as, for example, the MIS program. If it is desired, we could also cover such situations in our answer to your question.

2. We have circulated to the IAC your proposal that NSCID 4 be modified and that national intelligence objectives and priorities be reported formally to the National Security Council. After consideration by the IAC, this will be accomplished.

3. We are undertaking a review of the definition of covert intelligence as set forth in NSCID 9. Further, we plan to consult with available members of the Brownell Board. It is possible that after we have taken these steps the matters should also be reviewed by USCIB. We will report to the Board on the action taken.

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4. We would be pleased to submit to the Board semi-annual reports covering the Agency's operations, policies and needs. We would suggest that, if convenient, these reports be submitted on May 1 and November 1 inasmuch as these dates conform to my semi-annual reports to the National Security Council. Mr. Kirkpatrick is already working out the form of the report with General Cassidy of your staff.

5. We are already in the process of making a study of the "stay behind" program and will submit a report to the Board at an early date.

6. We are happy to participate in a study of the flow of intelligence from a given area for a stipulated period of time. Mr. Kirkpatrick is working out the details of this with General Cassidy, and we believe such a study can be made within the next few weeks.

I trust that the foregoing will meet the desires of the Board. However, if you believe anything further is required, we would be glad to meet your wishes.

Sincerely yours,

SIGNED

Allen W. Dulles
Director

O/IG/LBKirkpatrick:rm (12 June 1956)

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*Concurrence on
first draft,
attached*

sig 6/15/56