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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Assistant to DCI

FROM : Acting Director of Training

SUBJECT: Weekly Summary Report
(18 - 24 February 1956)

DATE: 2 February 1956

INTRODUCTION

This week the Office of Training has the following to report: (1) initiation of language training programs at [redacted] (2) favorable comment on the language aptitude testing program; (3) psychological testing demonstration conducted for officials of the United States Information Agency; and (4) expanding interest in the course on war planning.

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LANGUAGE TRAINING AT [redacted]

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The Office of Training has initiated a modest language training program at [redacted] for students in the new seventeen-week Operations course. Certain hours of each week are set aside for organized classes in French, Spanish, German, Chinese and Russian, which are conducted by two members of the [redacted] staff and three students. Almost half of the class has indicated interest in participating in this opportunity to maintain previously acquired proficiency. A language laboratory has also been established to enable interested students to practice any of fifteen languages. Expansion of this program to include members of the staff is being planned.

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LANGUAGE APTITUDE TESTING

The Deputy Assistant Director for Operations, DD/I, in a memorandum to the Director of Training states he has found the language aptitude testing program conducted by the Assessment and Evaluation Staff, OTR, "of considerable value" and "in several cases the deciding factor in the selection of personnel for the Foreign Documents Division." A definite correlation has been noted between candidate scores on the aptitude test and their progress in language training in Foreign Documents Division.

MORI/CDF

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The correlation between test results and progress in language training is, of course, expected on the basis of the research that was undertaken to develop the Foreign Language Aptitude Testing Battery. This research was begun three years ago, and follow-ups both of the formal and informal varieties have demonstrated its value. The results make it possible to insure that those without the necessary language aptitude are not chosen for expensive training.

PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTING DEMONSTRATION FOR USIA

By agreement between the Director of Training, CIA, and the Chief of Training, USIA, the Assessment and Evaluation Staff, OTR, conducted a limited number of assessments of prospective employees of USIA. The findings of these assessments have now been reviewed with the Chief of Training and the Director of Personnel, USIA; they provided a concrete demonstration of the value of a psychological testing program.

WAR PLANNING COURSE NO. 5

It is gratifying to note that the value of the War Planning course is increasingly being recognized by components of the Agency. Students enrolled in course No. 5 include three representatives of the Office of Logistics, two of whom are scheduled for immediate assignment overseas as war planners in the logistics field. There are also representatives from several foreign divisions of DD/P, the Office of Personnel, Office of Training, and the Planning and Program Coordination Staff, DD/P.



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CC: 1 - DD/P
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