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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

JUN 23 1954

RD-123/16

MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR, CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

SUBJECT: Information on Soviet BW Activities.

1. The recent intensive propaganda drive of the USSR and Red China in the BW field has served to heighten our fears that the USSR is making preparations of some magnitude for the waging of biological warfare and for defense against it. However, we know too little to judge the extent to which these fears are justified. For example, the recent report, "Soviet Biological Warfare Capabilities through 1960", prepared for this office, states that our knowledge does not provide positive or conclusive proof of the existence, scope, or magnitude of the Soviet BW program, and therefore, that the existence rests "largely on indirect factors". The Director, Central Intelligence Agency, in a memorandum dated October 1952, had advised the Secretary of Defense that the defense agencies did not desire to raise the priority for covert collection of BW intelligence at that time since this would compete with other collection requirements then established by the Department of Defense as vital to early warning responsibilities.

2. A revised statement of our specific intelligence requirements for guidance of the research and development program in the BW field, forwarded to the Chairman of the Scientific Estimates Committee on 11 June 1954, contains requirements that can be met only by direct positive information. The question thus arises as to how the requirements for BW intelligence are to be met. I will welcome your advice on steps that will be feasible and can be undertaken to increase the flow of specific information revealing actual Soviet activities and plans in the BW field.

Sincerely yours,

OSD REVIEW COMPLETED

Donald A. Quarles
Donald A. Quarles

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