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25 March 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Elmer B. Staats
Executive Officer
Operations Coordinating Board

SUBJECT: Relation of NSC 166/1 to OCB Working Groups

The following comments relate to your memorandum to the Board Assistants dated March 4 dealing with NSC 166/1:

We agree with the basic idea behind your memorandum that NSC 166/1 is an important paper having application to the fields of interest of a number of OCB working groups and that a means should be worked out for assuring that all groups which can contribute to the carrying out of the stated policies are cognizant of their responsibilities. We further agree that a method should be worked out for an over-all report on action under the paper.

The chart attached to your memorandum seems to us to be somewhat too restrictive. While the opportunities and capabilities for furthering the courses of action described in 166/1, particularly paragraph 5, vary from area to area, we believe that some action to further those objectives can be taken in all the working groups concerned with the Far East, and in some cases in working groups concerned with other parts of the world. (This is not true with regard to the maintenance of the security [redacted])

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For example, the objective of fostering strong non-Communist governments (para. 5.d.) is applicable [redacted] as well as in the other countries of the Far East. The qualification of bordering on Communist China mentioned in 5.c. is probably the reason [redacted] omitted on the chart but [redacted] is specifically mentioned in that section, there would seem no reason to omit [redacted] which are [redacted] also affected by the existence of Communist China.

The injunction in paragraph 5.e. to assist in the development [redacted] countries where a practicable basis for such development exists is qualified by the phrase "on a selective

basis

DOS and NSC review(s) completed.

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basis." We do not feel that a high-level selection is necessary except in those cases where the limitation of our capabilities requires priorities to be established. The chart indicates that this subsection is not applicable [redacted]

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[redacted] The fact is that the U. S. is devoting very considerable effort to the development of the political, military and economic strength [redacted]

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As the chart points out, paragraphs 5.g. and i. of the NSC paper have a world-wide application. Also as an operational fact, it is possible to exert pressures [redacted]

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There is, of course, no working group which concerns itself with the Far East as a whole and I question whether it is desirable to create one at this time. Certain sections of NSC 166/1 have already been assigned to the working group [redacted] and we would suggest that that group be given the general task of coordinating reporting under all parts of NSC 166/1. This does not mean that that group should report in detail as to what steps are being taken in all the various Far Eastern and other countries to achieve the objectives of 166/1. Rather, the representatives on the [redacted] Working Group should consider it their task within their respective agencies to call the provisions of 166/1 to the attention of their agency representatives on all relevant working groups and when a report is due, the [redacted] should include a table which would indicate what working groups will be reporting on their specific country responsibilities under 166/1; e.g., they would report that the [redacted] working group will itself report on the steps taken [redacted]

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This suggestion differs from that proposed in your memorandum where it is proposed that the OCB staff should fulfill this function. The reason for the difference is that we feel that our suggestion will be more apt to insure that within the various departments and agencies, there will be proper attention paid to this important NSC paper. The assistance of the OCB staff in assuring coordination will, of course, be helpful. Further, it would undoubtedly be helpful if you, directly or through the various working group chairmen, were to call to the attention of the groups the importance of NSC 166/1.

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WAYNE G. JACKSON
Operations Coordinating Board
Assistant

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