

PSYCHOLOGICAL STRATEGY BOARD

WASHINGTON

OCT 14 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: General Walter Bedell Smith
Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: A Strategic Concept for the National Psychological
Program (PSB D-31)

1. At its fifteenth meeting on September 11, 1952, the Board agreed that the subject paper is approved as soon as the comments of the Department of Defense are received by the Director and agreed to by the Department of State and the Central Intelligence Agency.

2. Under date of October 6, 1952, I have received a memorandum containing the views of the Department of Defense. The Department of Defense approves the paper subject to the following:

"a. That paragraph 1 in the recommendations be amended to provide for progressive reduction as well as retraction, of Soviet power and influence as provided in NSC 10/5 and paragraph 2 of the subject paper.

"b. That paragraph 2 in the recommendations contain a proviso to the effect that the paragraph is without prejudice to those arrangements now in effect whereby a responsible agency is to make preparations for activities after D-Day in support of approved war plans.

"c. That acceptance of this concept is without prejudice to later logistic feasibility testing by the Department of Defense of specific courses of action which would require logistic support of that Department."

3. In addition to the changes quoted in paragraph 2 above, the Department of Defense has brought to my attention the following minor suggested changes:

"a. Paragraph 14b, page 7, line 4: After 'active support of' add 'Great Britain as well as'.

"b. Paragraph 14d, page 8, line 1 of title: After 'the Soviet and European' add 'satellite'.

"c. Paragraph 14e,

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NSC review(s) completed.

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"d. Recommendation 2, page 9, line 23: After 'emphasis' add 'in these operations'."

The Department comments that "these suggestions are for the most part not of a substantive nature; would appear to have arisen from editorial oversight; and are not considered to merit official discussion." Hence they are advanced only as optional additional changes, not as conditions for approval of PSB D-31.

4. The memorandum of October 6 also makes the following general comments which I quote for your information:

"2. With regard to the paper as a whole it is noted that the interim nature of the strategic concept requires its consideration, in effect, as a strategic course of action based upon present capabilities and efforts to develop additional potentials. In any consideration of the specific actions outlined in paragraph 14, there is a tendency to recommend the broadening of the concept. For example, the promising project has led to the suggestion of an enlargement of this program to include similar action in any or all of the satellite countries, an expansion however which in view of existing conditions in those countries and limitations in our present capabilities renders this unrealistic and unacceptable.

"3. The individual countries marked for priority operations under paragraph 14a will vary as to criticalness from time to time, and other countries may demand priority treatment. The same is true of those countries mentioned in paragraph 14e as being susceptible to successful covert political action.

"4. The foregoing facts merely emphasize the interim or partial nature of the concept and point up the importance of recommendation 5 which calls for its continuous review and recurrent revisions to meet future developments."

5. I would appreciate being informed at your earliest convenience if the proposals in paragraph 2 of the present memorandum are acceptable, and also whether you agree to any of the optional suggestions in paragraph 3. If I receive concurrences from the Department of State and the Central Intelligence Agency in the suggestions of the Department of Defense, I will record the plan as approved.

Alan G. Kirk

Alan G. Kirk
Director

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