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PSB M-7

M I N U T E S

Seventh Meeting of the  
PSYCHOLOGICAL STRATEGY BOARD  
December 20, 1951, 2:30 p.m.,  
Room 5104, State Department

MEMBERS:

- General Walter B. Smith, Director of Central Intelligence,  
Chairman
- Honorable William C. Foster, Deputy Secretary of Defense
- Honorable James E. Webb, Under Secretary of State
- Mr. Gordon Gray, Director, Psychological Strategy Board
- Mr. Raymond B. Allen, Director Designate, Psychological  
Strategy Board

OTHER PARTICIPANTS:

Department of State

- Mr. Edward W. Barrett, Assistant Secretary of State
- Mr. John M. Allison, Acting Assistant Secretary of State  
(Agenda Item 5 only)
- Mr. W. Bradley Connors (Agenda Item 5 only)

Department of Defense

- Brig. General John A. Magruder (Retired)

Joint Chiefs of Staff

- Brig. General Jesmond D. Balmer, USA

Central Intelligence Agency

Mutual Security Administration

- Mr. John Ohly (Agenda Item 2 only)
- Mr. Robert Eichholz (Agenda Item 2 only)

Psychological Strategy Board

- Colonel Charles W. McCarthy, USA
- Mr. Tracy Barnes
- Mr. Wallace Carroll
- Mr. John Sherman
- Mr. Charles E. Johnson

Charles W. McCarthy  
Colonel, USA  
Executive Officer

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NSC review(s) completed.

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urged that a check be made with key Congressmen on this aspect. He further stated that there were other competing claims on these funds and there is an element of priorities involved. He also indicated that it looked as though this might be the first phase of a program that would lead to a larger expenditure in the future, and asked if thinking had yet developed with respect to this second phase.

General Smith said that the Board had not thought through the second phase of the program and was not able at this time to state such further requirements.

Mr. Webb pointed out that the estimate of governmental financing had been kept low due to the anticipated tie-in with voluntary refugee organizations and with the plans of other interested countries.

It was generally agreed that it was highly important that a thorough study be made of the potential military usefulness of the program, both for the purpose of supporting allocation of funds by the Director of Mutual Security and the defense of such allocation in the Congress and also for the purpose of developing the second phase of the program.

Mr. Foster made clear his position that in approving the paper for further action he was specifically withholding for further consideration the question of the transfer of funds from Title I, Military End Item Funds, for the purpose. //

General Smith asked that the staff study be amended to change the language of paragraph 23-b-1 as noted in the action above. (Action, page 2)

Mr. Webb proposed, and the Board approved, the insertion of a new estimate of the cost of program in paragraph 20 to provide for a request to the Director of Mutual Security for \$4,300,000 instead of the proposed request of \$2,500,000 contained in the staff study. The text of the Department's budget for handling 18,000 escapees is set forth under "Action" above.

Agenda Item 1. - Staff Study on Publicity with Respect to Certain Weapons (PSB D-18/C)

Action: The staff study was approved. The Board authorized the immediate establishment of a committee chaired by a representative of the Department of Defense and a directive to the committee

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to proceed with the drafting of its terms of reference for the approval of the Psychological Strategy Board. The Committee should then address itself as a matter of urgency to the preparation of a national information policy.

Discussion: Mr. Gray presented the staff study indicating that the title now referred to "certain" weapons pursuant to a suggestion by the Department of Defense. The kinds of weapons covered are defined in the text of the study. Mr. Gray pointed to the difficulties involved in dealing with this subject due to the presence of both domestic and foreign information aspects and the fact that the Psychological Strategy Board is not in any way concerned with the domestic aspect. Further there are interdepartmental difficulties due to divided statutory responsibilities with respect to the release and treatment of classified information. There are other problems arising from the responsibility of the State Department under NSC-59/1.

Mr. Webb suggested that the proposed committee be established with instructions to proceed immediately with the drafting of its terms of reference for the review and approval of the Board. He noted that the Board at this time could not deal with all the complications involved. He further proposed that the committee could be next instructed to prepare a national information policy guidance under which the Department of Defense and the State Department could issue their respective types of guidance bearing on those matters for which they have statutory or executive responsibility.

Mr. Foster thought that through the use of the committee the responsibilities now divided between the Department of Defense and the Atomic Energy Commission could be coordinated.

It was agreed that the committee would be organized as proposed in the staff study and that it would be requested to draft its terms of reference for the approval of the Board and further that it would prepare a national information policy as a matter of urgency.

General Smith designated Colonel [redacted] as the CIA representative. Mr. Foster designated Mr. Clayton Fritchey as the Department of Defense representative. Mr. Webb stated that he would designate the Department of State representative at a later time.

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Agenda Item 3. - Plan for Conducting Psychological Operations during General Hostilities (D-8/a)

The Chairman inquired as to the status of the comments of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, receipt of which are needed before the Board takes final action on the plan.

General Balmer reported that the matter is still under consideration by the Joint Chiefs of Staff and that he has been attempting to expedite completion of the comments. The Chairman requested General Balmer to inform the Joint Chiefs of Staff that the Board hopes to receive their comments some time during the month of January. Mr. Foster said that he would expedite action and attempt to secure the final comments early in January.

Agenda Item 4. - New Projects Approved by the PSB for Staff Action.

Mr. Gray reported that this agenda item is for the information of the members of the Board. These three plans have already been approved as projects for work by the PSB staff. He reported that with respect to agenda item 4-B the Department of State has suggested that the study take the form of an evaluation of the psychological results obtained from the President's original proposal to the United Nations General Assembly with respect to the reduction and limitation of armaments and with respect to the manner in which it has been exploited up to this time. This evaluation would precede any further planning of further exploitation of the proposal. Mr. Gray further reported that agenda 4-C is not considered to be a matter of high priority and it will be so treated. Mr. Gray also stated that another project was considered by the Board members which does not appear on the agenda, i. e., the East-West Trade Problem in connection with the forthcoming Moscow Economic Conference which is set for next April. This matter is also under study as authorized by the Board's members.

Agenda Item 6. - Suggestion for a new project by General Walter B. Smith.

Action: The Board approved this proposal as a new project under the leadership of the Department of State with the assistance of the PSB staff. General Smith's proposal is as follows:



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