

11 August 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Executive Order Establishing the Operations Coordinating Board

1. Mr. Tracy Barnes, speaking for the Deputy Director (Plans), has raised the following points:

a. Should Section 2(a)(3) be amended to assure that the Operations Coordinating Board does not get into the detailed execution and carrying out of plans?

b. With the same thought, Mr. Barnes suggests that it would be preferable from his point of view to word Section 2(a)(4) so that the Operations Coordinating Board would suggest or recommend to the Planning Board or to the appropriate agency or agencies any proposals for action or for such additional planning as may be necessary. He feels the present wording will bring the Operations Coordinating Board into the details of execution of operations.

2. Comment. There will be a reluctance to accept the amended wording, which will require recoordination of the Order. Substantially, the present wording was agreed to on Friday, 7 August 1953, and Mr. Dulles read hastily that draft without objection. The question of the relation of the Operations Coordinating Board to the details of operations was discussed in the preliminary meeting on Friday, consisting of Mr. Stassen, [redacted] Mr. Kyes, Mr. Wisner, and myself. It was the consensus that the Operations Coordinating Board would need to know enough about operations to know that they were consistent with policy and that this would vary greatly from case to case.

3. As I understand it there is no intention that the Operations Coordinating Board or its staff must review each project in detail. Consequently, I believe the present wording of the proposed Order is acceptable even though other language might be preferable. You may wish to discuss this with the Deputy Director (Plans).

*I agree.
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LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON
General Counsel

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cc: DD/P