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A P P R O V E D

M I N U T E S

Seventeenth Meeting of the
PSYCHOLOGICAL STRATEGY BOARD
January 15, 1953 2:45 P. M.
Conference Room, Deputy Secretary
of Defense
Department of Defense
Pentagon

MEMBERS:

Mr. William C. Foster, Deputy Secretary of Defense, Chairman
Mr. David K. E. Bruce, Under Secretary of State
General Walter B. Smith, Director of Central Intelligence
Admiral Alan G. Kirk, USN (Ret.), Director of Psychological Strategy Board

OTHER PARTICIPANTS:

Department of State

Mr. Howland H. Sargeant, Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs

Department of Defense

Brig. General John Magruder, USA (Ret.)
Mr. William H. Godel

Central Intelligence Agency

25X1 [redacted]

Director for Mutual Security
Mutual Security Agency

Honorable W. Averell Harriman
Mr. Thomas Wilson

Joint Chiefs of Staff

Brig. General Millard C. Young, USAF

Psychological Strategy Board

Mr. George A. Morgan
Mr. Edmond L. Taylor
Mr. Mallory Browne
Dr. Horace S. Craig
Mr. Charles E. Johnson, Secretary to the Board

Alan G. Kirk

Alan G. Kirk
Director

NSC review(s) completed.

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Agenda Item A. A National Psychological Program with Respect to Escapees from the Soviet Orbit: Phase B (PSB D-18a/1, December 17, 1952)

The Board approved the paper with the following amendment. Paragraph 2 was amended to read:

"2. Requirements for Program Development.

Within the framework of NSC 86/1 and with due regard for conditions in specific areas, [redacted] 25X6

a. Take action to insure that escapees from the Soviet Orbit will receive asylum and will be assisted in achieving a constructive life in the free world; and to this end enlist the support of governments of the free world." . . . (The balance of the paragraph remains unchanged).

Agenda Item B. Psychological Strategy Program for [redacted] (PSB D-27, December 22, 1952) 25X6

The Board approved the paper, subject to final coordination by the Director of comments from the member departments and agencies.

Agenda Item No. 1 - PSB Status Report to NSC on the Psychological Program as of December 31, 1952 (PSB D-35)

The Board approved the report for submittal to the President and the NSC. Mr. Bruce noted that "the Department of State continues to be wary of attempting to measure, with existing dubious criteria, the effectiveness of a given psychological action in situations in which many other forces, economic, political and military, are at work. To correct such deficiencies was not feasible under the time limits imposed. They will continue to appear until arrangements are made permitting more effective staff work within and among the agencies concerned."

Agenda Item No. 2 - Test Case Evaluation of the U. S. Psychological Effort in [redacted] (PSB D-29)
25X6

The Board noted the paper with interest but did not approve it. Mr. Bruce commented as follows:

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25X6 "1. While the paper has indicated that the psychological operations in [redacted] have contributed to the attainment of our national objectives in that country and indicated that although progress has been made, much remains to be done, the paper does not provide the guidance for policy planners or programmers which an acceptable evaluation might be expected to provide,

"2. The Department considers the subject paper, even as corrected, constitutes a useful first step in the development of acceptable evaluation criteria and procedures."

25X6 [redacted]

The Board approved the paper and authorized the Director to coordinate any further comments which the PSB member agencies might wish to make. Upon final coordination of these comments, the Director is authorized to transmit the paper to the President and the NSC.

Agenda Item No. 3b - [redacted] 25X1 X6

The Board noted the paper with interest and, subject to further staff work, accepted it as a reference document to be transmitted to the PSB member agencies and to the Director of Mutual Security.

Agenda Item No. 4 - Psychological Strategy Plan for the [redacted] (PSB D-22, January 8, 1953) 25X6

The Board approved the paper subject to coordination of final agency comments by the Director.

25X6 Agenda Item No. 5 - [redacted] to the National Psychological Strategy with Respect to [redacted] (PSB D-21/2, January 7, 1953) 25X6

The Board approved the paper and authorized the Director to coordinate any further comments which the PSB member agencies might wish to make. The Board further agreed to delete Paragraph 4 under Contingency B, page 11, in the subject paper.

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Agenda Item No. 6 - Psychological Strategy Plan for [redacted] (PSB D-23, January 5, 1953) 25X6

The Board noted this paper with interest as an indication of progress and referred the paper back to the Director for further staff work. The Director brought to the attention of the Board that the development of a plan for [redacted] had to be within the context of a wide geographic area extending far beyond [redacted] 25X6 25X6

Agenda Item No. 7 - Staff Study - Psychological Strategy Planning for [redacted] PSB D-38) 25X6

The Board noted the Staff Study and approved the recommendation that the Director undertake the preparation of a psychological strategy plan for Western Europe as set forth in the paper.

Agenda Item No. 8 - This item was deleted from the agenda prior to the meeting.

Agenda Item No. 9 - Progress Report by the Director

The Director presented a report to the Board giving an account of all major items of work not otherwise listed on the agenda. The Board made the Director's Progress Report and the related papers noted in the Report a part of the Minutes of the meeting. The "Progress Report by the Director at the Seventeenth Meeting of the Psychological Strategy Board, January 15, 1953", is, therefore, appended to and made a part of these Minutes. Reports on the following subjects are also a part of these Minutes but have been given separate distribution:

25X6 (1) Psychological Operations Plan for Reduction of Communist Power in [redacted] (PSB D-14c)

25X6 [redacted]

(3) Doctrinal (Ideological) Warfare Against the USSR (PSB D-33)

(4) Psychological Strategy for Economic Security Vis-a-Vis the Soviet Orbit (PSB D-28).

(5) Preliminary Survey for Plan [redacted] 25X6

(6) Staff Study on European Satellites of the USSR.

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Post-Agenda Item - Periodic Review of PSB Plans

The Board indicated its desire that the PSB Staff develop a schedule for the periodic review of PSB approved plans.

Post-Agenda Item - Approval of Minutes

In view of the time limitations which preclude the normal process of clearing and approving the Minutes, the Board agreed to record its final action at the meeting on each item of the Agenda and authorized the Director to record and issue the Minutes of the meeting without further clearance or approval by members of the Board.

Post-Agenda Item - Statement by Members of the Board Apropos of their Final Meeting

Mr. Foster noted that inasmuch as this was the last meeting he expected to attend, he wished to express his view that he considered the past year and four months during which he had been associated with the Board as being very useful. He felt that there was real promise for the future and hoped that the new Board could go on and strengthen the work. He stated his view that the Board had a devoted, active and useful staff. He further noted that he hoped that out of the work of the Board would come a really well directed psychological effort on the part of the United States which can be very useful in this cold war in which we are engaged. He considered it a real privilege to be associated with his fellow members on the Board, with Mr. Harriman, with Admiral Kirk, with the PSB Staff and with his colleagues in the Department of Defense who have worked with him on the work of the Board. General Smith, Mr. Bruce and Mr. Harriman expressed their wish to be associated with Mr. Foster in his statement.

General Smith observed that it was interesting to him to see how much progress had been made in a completely uncharted field. Mr. Harriman then said that he had been watching the development of psychological warfare in relation to Russia since the war and the advance in government thinking had been really fantastic.

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25X1

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