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ER-C-9483

14 March 1950

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: Failure of JAEIC to Receive Counter Espionage Information having a Positive Intelligence Value

REFERENCE: Memorandum dated 16 February from AD/OSI addressed to the IAC enclosing memorandum of 9 February from the Joint Atomic Intelligence Committee to the Chairman, SIC (attached hereto)

1. With reference to the attached memoranda, in which JAEIC said that it would have been able to produce much better estimates had it heard from the FBI in advance that there was probability of espionage leaks on atomic energy through Fuchs, we believe that you may wish to point this out as an example to Mr. Hoover of the assistance he could give this Agency. A draft of such a letter is enclosed.

2. We understand that the FBI had this information some months ago; but whether or not it was before June 1949, we do not know. (Press reports say FBI was informed about Fuchs several years ago). If they had told CIA of their evidence or suspicions, it naturally would have helped with our estimates on Soviet atomic developments.

3. We think that this particular instance is a matter between CIA and the FBI, not a matter for the attention of the entire Intelligence Advisory Committee, as recommended by OSI, other than for their information.

4. With reference to the Scientific Intelligence Committee's receiving counter-intelligence data, we should think that Committee could, under its charter, arrange to have additional representation on it from OSO or FBI but we should also think it would become so large that it would become unwieldy. Neither OSO nor FBI is engaged in such substantive intelligence but rather are collectors of information.

5. If FBI could be persuaded to enter our field with a real free flow of information, and if OSO would make sure that pertinent data reaches OSI and ORE, we should think no additional members on the Scientific Intelligence Committee would be necessary. Also if there were such members, and yet the FBI did not give out its information much in advance of publication in the press, it would make no difference whether or not it had a member on the Committee.

FBI REVIEW COMPLETED

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6. We think it preferable for FBI to supply CIA with its pertinent information in advance, through OSO, and then OSC should furnish it to AD/OSI or AD/ORE as the case may be.

7. AD/OO and Chief, I&SS, are against citing a specific example in our letter to the FBI, but we feel strongly that that is an important point which should be emphasized. We are not asking for completed dossiers or convictions but only for information which may affect the National Security and we think a very important example is the case cited in the letter. AD/OSO's nonconcurrency and substitute draft for the letter to FBI are enclosed.

8. The Executive and four of the Assistant Directors support our stand wholeheartedly that such a letter should be sent. Where there have been concurrences or nonconcurrences with comments, copies of those memos are attached hereto: i.e.,

February 28 from AD/OO
March 1 from AD/OCD
March 2 from Chief, I&SS
March 2 from AD/ORE
March 14 from AD/OSO

9. Furthermore we think information copies of the letter to the FBI should go to the Executive Secretary of the NSC and to the other members of the Intelligence Advisory Committee.


PRESCOTT CHILDS, Chief,
Coordination, Operations,
and Policy Staff

cc: Executive
All Assistant Directors
Chief, I&SS

ENCLOSURES:

Memo to IAC through COAPS from AD/OSI, 16 Feb 50
Memo to Chairman, SIC from JAEIC, 9 Feb 50
Memo to COAPS from AD/CO, 28 Feb 50
2 memos to COAPS from AD/OCD, 1 Mar 50
Memo to COAPS from Chief, I&SS, 2 Mar 50
Memo to COAPS from AD/ORE, 2 Mar 50, enclosing copy of memo to AD/OSO from EGI, 25 Jan 49
Memo to Executive from AD/OSO, 14 Mar 50, enclosing OSO's draft of letter to FBI
Letter for signature to Director, FBI, with copies for Executive Secretary, NSC; other members of the IAC; Assistant Directors, CIA, Executive; and Chief, I&SS.

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