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SRC-4427

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Chief, Coordination, Operations & Policy Staff
 FROM : Chief, Advisory Council
 SUBJECT: Permanent Watch Committee.
 DATE: 22 September 1950
 REFERENCE: Your memorandum of 15 September 1950 concerning subject.

1. With regard to paragraph 2 of the referenced memorandum, please be informed that the so-called Weckerling Committee is currently functioning under the direction of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. This Committee normally meets at the Pentagon each week on Wednesdays. CIA and State attend in the capacity of observers. We get a full briefing plus all papers disseminated by this Committee.

2. While it is true that the functions of the so-called Weckerling Committee and the Watch Committee are parallel in certain respects, the former group is concerned more precisely with the military aspects of Soviet preparedness and intentions while the Watch Committee is more inclusive in that it concerns itself not only with Soviet military potentials and intentions, but also with the social, economic and political realities of the Russian preparedness program.

3. It is true, as your referenced memorandum indicated, that in some instances the same service people who participate in meetings of the Weckerling Committee also attend and participate in Watch Committee meetings. The Watch Committee meets on Thursdays, and it has been determined that those who have attended the prior meeting of the Weckerling Committee are in a better position to participate in the discussions and deliberations of the Watch Committee because of their prior briefing on Wednesdays at Weckerling Committee meetings.

4. Another point which I should like to bring to your attention is that CIA has the primary jurisdiction within the field of national intelligence estimates, and the Watch Committee is one of the means we have of carrying out this function. The Joint Chiefs of Staff are entirely within their province in setting up the Weckerling Committee in order to arrive at departmental military estimates. For CIA to dissolve the Watch Committee and officially participate in the functions of the Weckerling Committee would be a clear violation of our duties under the statutes. It is my opinion that the Watch Committee serves a useful purpose and that no steps should be taken to dissolve it.

5. I want to thank you for the excellent cooperation you have given to me in keeping me informed of all the matters within the purview of this office.

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