

Executive Registry
61-8900

3 June 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director

SUBJECT: Proposed Joint Study of Intelligence Activities
Under Chairmanship of Mr. Kirkpatrick

1. At the initial meeting of the Study Group this morning, Mr. Berry stated that Secretary Herter was seriously concerned that information about this study of the intelligence community would "leak out", and, in light of the U-2 incident, become an issue in the political campaign. In view of this possibility, Secretary Herter feels that the study should not be initiated until the possible political factors involved have been brought to the attention of the President, and he can make a decision whether to go ahead or not.

2. The Study Group discussed the matter, and it was agreed that no study method could be devised that would not involve risk of leaks and therefore it was essential, in view of Secretary Herter's concern, to have the issue raised with the President. It was further agreed that you should take the initiative to arrange for Secretary Herter, Secretary Gates, Mr. Stans and yourself to meet with the President and discuss this matter prior to his Far Eastern trip. That is if you and the other principals when you discuss it decide that it is necessary to check with the President. Mr. Lay suggested that the upcoming NSC meeting would provide a good time for such a discussion with the President, either before or after the regular NSC session.

3. You will remember that several weeks ago when we met with Mr. Stans, Mr. Gray and Mr. Gates on this proposed intelligence study, it was understood Mr. Gray would touch base with the President to check out his approval of a joint study. However, Mr. Lay informed us that Mr. Gray decided to delay seeing the President on the matter until he had the Group's proposed terms of reference. As the problem that worries Secretary Herter has no bearing on terms of reference, it was agreed that it should be raised with the President without any further delay. In the meantime, drafting work on terms of reference will go forward, and it is planned for the Study Group to meet again on 13 June -- assuming the President does not cancel the program.


C. P. CABELL
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Deputy Director

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