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24 January 1961

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION:

1. I met with General Graves B. Erskine, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations, on 23 January for about one hour on the subject of the National Security Council actions in approving the recommendations in the Joint Study Group Report on Foreign Intelligence Activities of the U. S. Government. I called his attention to the changes in National Security Council Intelligence Directives 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 which in substance substitutes the "Secretary of Defense" or the "Department of Defense" for the services, that is, Army, Navy and Air Force, in these intelligence directives.

2. General Erskine indicated that he was having a Defense Instruction issued to the services and the Joint Chiefs of Staff which would henceforth require them to send policy papers directed to the Director of Central Intelligence through General Erskine's office for coordination before being sent to the Director. I commented that there was quite a large volume of such papers and that I thought this would assist the Director by having the policy request reviewed before sending it to him for action.

3. I told General Erskine that I now could get busy and make recommendations regarding the organization of the Coordination Staff which is authorized by recommendation No. 29 of the Joint Study Group Report and asked him if he would support such a staff if it had representation from the services as well as from the Department of Defense and the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He indicated that the Department of Defense is moving toward closer integration of the service activities at the Department of Defense level. He stated that he would not object if representation was needed from the three services on the Coordination Staff. He rather doubted if representation from the Joint Chiefs of Staff was necessary. I pointed out that I particularly wanted representation from the three services and the National Security Agency so that we could have technical experts in the intelligence field to conduct the surveys contemplated by the Coordination Staff.

4. I then gave General Erskine a general idea of the DCID which I felt was the proper vehicle to get the Staff underway. He made a few constructive comments on the very rough draft which I read to him -- he suggested that we remove the word "foreign" when used with foreign intelligence activities, and suggested that we have the Staff allegiance to the Director of Central Intelligence rather than the intelligence community as a whole. He thought that

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the administration for the Staff should be carefully setup possibly entirely in the Office of the Director but that salaries could be paid by the parent departments and agencies. He did not like the use of the word "components" in a DCID because the word "component" has a specific meaning in the Department of Defense, namely, a component command under a unified command.

5. When I left he said he would support the Staff and the general ideas I outlined to him and that he was most anxious to use my office as a point of contact with his office so that we both could be mutually informed of coordination problems.

6. I pointed out that the changes in NSCID No. 5, paragraphs 8. a., b., and c. might need clarification because the Command Relationships Agreement which sets forth CIA's wartime responsibilities was agreed between the Director of Central Intelligence and the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He suggested that the best way to handle this would be to write a letter to the Secretary of Defense to the attention of his office suggesting that the words "Joint Chiefs of Staff" in the present Agreement be changed to the "Secretary of Defense" and request that the Agreement remain in force as it now stands.

7. General Erskine offered to have his assistant, Mr. Clyde Elliott, assist my representative in writing an appropriate administrative paragraph for the proposed DCID.

8. General Erskine also informed me confidentially that one of our chiefs of station was persona non grata with one of the major military commands and asked me to pass this word on to the proper place in CIA. I have prepared a one copy memorandum and have sent it to Mr. Kirkpatrick, Inspector General.



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