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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

APR 30 1957

FILE MR Case No. 95-29

Document No. 9

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Progress Report on the Implementation of Recommendation No. 7 of the Report to the President by the President's Board of Consultants on Foreign Intelligence Activities

1. The President, after consideration of the Agency's comments thereon, has directed action as indicated below, of the following recommendation of the President's Board of Consultants on Foreign Intelligence Activities:

Recommendation: "To give proper high level direction to the Communication Intelligence Activities and to insure that their tremendous capabilities can be exploited to the fullest, we believe that they should have the direct management attention of a single Assistant Secretary of Defense. We therefore suggest that one be designated for that purpose."

Action: "Refer to the Secretary of Defense as Executive Agent and the Director of Central Intelligence, as Chairman, USCIB, under NSCID No. 9, for study and report thereon to the President."

In approving the above action the President has directed that a report thereon be submitted to him as soon as practicable and prior to taking final action.

2. The above matter has been discussed on several occasions with Reuben B. Robertson, Jr., Deputy Secretary of Defense, and I have considered his letter to the President on this subject, dated April 11, 1957.

3. I am in complete agreement with the emphasis placed by the President's Board on the importance of the COMINT effort and the urgency of insuring that its tremendous capabilities be exploited to the fullest.

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4. The ultimate responsibility for accomplishing this must be placed upon the management of the National Security Agency itself. The Department of Defense as Executive Agent and USCIB with its charter to give policy directives, each in their respective fields, should play an important supporting role. The crux of the matter is to keep the management and personnel of the National Security Agency at the highest possible level of efficiency. The National Security Agency must include on its staff persons with a high degree of ingenuity and sophistication in this vital field, where as modern techniques are developed, the attack is tending to become less effective than the measures of defense.

5. The recent step that has been taken pursuant to the recommendation of the Brownell Committee (dated 13 June 1952) in providing a high level civilian Deputy to the competent military officer who is now Director, has helped to meet the problem raised in Recommendation No. 7 of the President's Board of Consultants. This Deputy Director in my opinion is of a caliber and competence comparable to that which one would be likely to find in an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

6. The question as to the manner in which the Department of Defense carries out its mandate for executive direction of the National Security Agency is primarily a matter for comment and recommendation by that Department. The undersigned as Chairman of USCIB, however, has advised Deputy Secretary Robertson, in reply to his inquiry, of his general agreement with the expression of views in the letter of April 11, 1957, regarding the Board's recommendation as to the designation of an Assistant Secretary of Defense for COMINT matters.

7. The Deputy Secretary's letter of April 11 included a recommendation with respect to the representation on the Intelligence Advisory Committee of the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Special Operations) who in the past has been the advisor to the Secretary and the Deputy Secretary in matters relating to COMINT. This officer is a full member of USCIB and hence participates in any policy decision USCIB reaches with respect to COMINT activities. This is of course wholly appropriate and should be continued. The question of this officer's representation on the Intelligence Advisory Committee raises certain issues not directly germane to the Board's Recommendation No. 7. The Defense Establishment is already represented on the Intelligence Advisory Committee by the senior Army, Navy, and Air Force intelligence officers and by a senior officer of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. All the foregoing have intelligence staff organizations and all of them with the exception of the intelligence officer of the Joint Chiefs of Staff have important intelligence collection

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operations. This tends to differentiate these officers from the representative of the Secretary of Defense, insofar as concerns the ability to deal with substantive intelligence problems on a world-wide basis.

8. As the question of a Defense Department representative on the Intelligence Advisory Committee does not bear upon the COMINT problems raised by Recommendation No. 7, I suggest that it be deferred for later consideration.

Richard W. Phillips
RICHARD W. PHILLIPS
Director



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