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INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE ACQUISITION
OF FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS

Minutes

Meeting of 2 February 1945

PRESENT:

Department of Agriculture
Library of Congress
War Department
Office of War Information
Navy Department
Foreign Economic Administration
Office of Strategic Services
Office of War Information
Interdepartmental Committee

Miss Mildred Benton
Mr. Verner Clapp
Lt. Col. Oron J. Hale, AUS
Mr. Harry J. Krowl
Comdr. J. L. Riheldaffer, USNR
Mr. Lewis A. Riley
Lt. George B. Young, USNR
Miss Jane Appleby
2nd Lt. David H. Clift, AUS
Mr. John H. Ottemiller
Miss Dorothy Kodadek
Lt. (j.g.) Frederick G. Kilgour,
USNR

Executive Secretary

Lt. Kilgour presided.

The Minutes of the Meeting of 12 January were approved as distributed.

Lt. Kilgour reported on IDC field activities in ETO: In November an IDC conference was held in Paris attended by Lt. Harry Stritman from Rome, Mr. Reuben Peiss enroute from Lisbon to Bern, Mr. Ralph Carruthers from London, Paris representatives of IDC and Lt. Kilgour. Plans were laid for the acquisition programs to be carried out on the Continent. A priority system was established for the collection drive as follows: (1) operational material, (2) Oriental material, (3) scientific and technical material, (4) German material, (5) other European material. Lt. Kilgour pointed out that this priority list would not mean a decrease in the volume of German or other European accessions because these appear at the bottom of the list; rather, the priority refers mainly to the amount of effort to be expended in acquiring the various types of material. German and other European material are relatively easy to secure so they do not appear at the top of this type of priority listing. Discussions and exchange of ideas among those present at the Paris meeting proved to be very beneficial.

Lt. Kilgour said that after the conference in Paris he worked in the London office of IDC to become familiar with the problems and operations of that Outpost and thereby permitting Mr. Carruthers to return to the United States for consultation in Washington. Lt. Kilgour complimented Mr. Carruthers on having gained for himself and IDC a fine reputation in London for service to the Military and US agencies in the United Kingdom as well as to the British.

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In Rome IDC operations are well under way. Working conditions there, as is true of all Outposts, are often difficult because of inadequate heat, light, transportation, or other facilities, but the IDC people were all doing a thoroughly good job. Difficulties in transporting microfilm equipment, as well as personnel, from Lisbon to Bern had delayed operations in Bern, but Lt. Kilgour said that Mr. Peiss undoubtedly had this outpost established and functioning by now.

The chair mentioned material acquired by the Dixie Mission which Lt. Clift reported would be available to agencies on film within the next few days. He said this film contains some of the best Far Eastern material yet acquired by the Committee.

Lt. Kilgour said that he was attempting to find out how IDC could obtain copies of Japanese publications captured in the Central Pacific and Southwest Pacific Theaters of Operation.