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INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE ACQUISITION OF FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS

Minutes

Meeting of 18 January 1944

PRESENT:

War Department	Col. Hale
State Department	Mr. Bohlen
	Mr. Gerber
Department of Commerce	Mr. Kopp
Navy Department	Com. Riheldaffer
Library of Congress	Mr. Moriarty
Office of War Information	Mr. Krould
Treasury Department	Mr. Southworth
Foreign Economic Administration	Mr. Chaput
Interdepartmental Committee	Miss Guhn
	Miss Kodadek
	Sgt. Clift
	Miss Reynolds
	Mr. Fairbank
Executive Secretary	Ensign Kilgour

Ensign Kilgour presided.

The Minutes of the Meeting of 21 December 1943 were approved as distributed.

Mr. Fairbank spoke at length about the methods and problems of obtaining publications in China with particular emphasis on obtaining publications from Japan and Occupied Areas. He spoke of the need for supplying the Chungking Outpost with original publications to be used for trading purposes and the Committee indicated that this should be done. Mr. Fairbank also stated that he felt that there was some doubt in Mr. Kates' mind as to whether or not he is authorized to purchase and subscribe to Japanese publications. The Committee requested the chair to transmit a telegram to Mr. Kates giving him specific authorization for the purchase of publications.

Mr. Bohlen described the obstacles met in obtaining Russian publications. He also reported that General Donovan had been in Moscow recently and while there had looked into the problem of acquiring Russian publications. Mr. Bohlen suggested that any action to send a Committee Representative to Moscow be deferred until after the General had returned. The Committee concurred.

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Mr. Gerber reported that a Press Reading Service was being established in Moscow as a joint project by the American and British Embassies and the Australian Legation. This Press Reading Service will make translations of important articles in Russian publications. These translations would then be air pouched to Washington and the State Department will endeavor to distribute them among Washington Agencies. The State Department had obtained some funds from the Navy and War Departments to help finance the project and wished to request similar funds from IDC. After some discussion Mr. Shaw moved that the Committee contribute to the support of the Moscow Press Reading Service at the rate of \$3000.00 per year for six months and at the end of the first six months review the results obtained to determine whether the Committee should continue, increase, or discontinue its financial support of the project. Mr. Chaput seconded the motion. The question was put to vote and unanimously approved.

Miss Reynolds announced that she was completing the listing of about 500 books that had been received in recent weeks and inquired if the Committee wished to appoint a Sub-Committee to determine the distribution of these books. The Committee decided to go over the list of titles at its next regular meeting.

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