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BEFIEND
Project file

13 June 1949

MEMORANDUM

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE/METHOD/EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

TO: Mr. Office
[]

SUBJECT: Preliminary Foreign Office reaction to
certain aspects of recent OPC-SIS
conversations.

1. I have just received a call from Mr. Peter Dwyer, who came to see me to pass on to us the following information which he has received from London.

2. There has been a personal message from William Hayter to the undersigned, the gist of which is that the first official reaction in London to the broad subject matter of the conversations here, as well as the proposed accords, is generally very favorable. Mr. Hayter pointed out, however, that "the processing of certain of the refinements at the top level would take a bit of time." Mr. Dwyer said that he interprets this message as meaning that Mr. Hayter and Mr. Brook have received an "amber light" and are proceeding to firm up the details at the top level of the British Government. Mr. Dwyer mentioned that this favorable response covered the general agreement as regards the treatment of refugees, among other things.

3. As regards Operation BE FIEND, Mr. Dwyer reported that "C" has expressed himself as being generally in favor of the approach which was discussed in our conversations. More specifically, "C" has said that he is in favor of handling this matter as a joint operation, employing the proposed British operation as a part of the first phase. He has further expressed himself as being in accord with the establishment in Washington of a combined policy office for the broad

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY	control of Operation BE FIEND, it being
CLASSIFICATION	understood that there would be representation on the
Cancelled	
Changed to	<i>Secret</i>
BY AUTHORITY OF	[]
Name	<i>[Signature]</i>
Office	<i>[Signature]</i>
Date	<i>24 July 1949</i>

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Memorandum (contd)

To: Mr. Office, ~~R~~ J.C.]

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part of OPC, SIS, the Department of State, and the Foreign Office (as represented by Messrs. Jellicoe and/or Allen of the Embassy). Mr. Dwyer would act as the SIS representative unless and until a person having SO-type operational experience is posted to Washington. In this connection, "C" has said that he feels the "executive control" of the operation should be in Europe during the exploratory phase. Finally, "C" has indicated that he favors the use of a committee of nationals, when formed, as cover for the operation, but he has suggested that this committee be kept in the background for a time in order to avoid delay which might ensue as a result of political differences and disagreements arising between the proposed nationals who would be members of such a committee.

4. I questioned Mr. Dwyer concerning certain aspects of "C"'s comments, and asked him to obtain clarification on the following points:

a. May we assume that, in referring to the proposed British operation, this means the British operation as originally conceived, or the British operation as modified by our requirements?

b. What does "executive control" mean, and where would this be located in Europe? If this means the operational control which will be exercised by our operations man and the British operations man, and if it means further that such operational control would be located wherever they may be, this would accord with our understanding.

c. What is meant by keeping the national committee in the background "for a time" in order to avoid delay. It was our understanding that if a full-blown committee could not be brought promptly into existence, we would explore the possibility of having the proposed chairman agree to act as the head of a "provisional committee".

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Memorandum (cont'd)
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5. Mr. Dwyer undertook to obtain the requested clarification of these points.

F.S.W.

cc:

Mr. Joyce for Mr. Kennan

*Downgraded to
Secret (restrict to SE/A)
28 March 1956
[unclear] [unclear]
C/SEA*

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