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Journal

Office of Legislative Counsel

19 March 1956 - Monday

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1. Accompanied Gen. Cabell on a visit to Chairman Carl Vinson of the House Armed Services Committee, to discuss the [] matter. Mr. Smart, Chief Counsel of the Committee, was present at the meeting. Gen. Cabell briefed the Chairman on the facts of the case and sought his advice on steps to be taken. The Chairman indicated that whereas he sympathized in our policy objectives in discouraging marriages to aliens, he felt that we should handle these matters on a case-by-case basis, and that in the present case he felt the Agency had made a mistake. Mr. Vinson evidently felt quite strongly about the [] case, as did Mr. Smart, and it was made clear that they would not be able to defend our action if it were investigated by the Congress. Chairman Vinson made an inference to the fact that our decision in this case, unless reversed, could do the Agency considerable harm in connection with the pressures for a Joint Congressional Committee.

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2. Following our meeting with Chairman Vinson, Gen. Cabell called a meeting in his office with Messrs. Grogan, Kirkpatrick, [] Edwards, Lloyd, Lockhart and Paul present. The General had discussed his session with Chairman Vinson with the Director prior to the meeting. After some discussion of the [] problem, and its implications on our policy and procedures with respect to marriage to aliens, it was decided that the prior decision on [] was to be reversed. [] was to notify [] Grogan was to answer press inquiries with an indication that the decision had been reversed on appeal. Paul was to prepare letters for Gen. Cabell's signature to interested Congressmen. [] is to draft a revision of Agency regulations on this matter, and will circulate it to others present at the meeting.

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