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CIA 36334-a Copy No. 10
DRAFT
IAC-D-80
22 December 1953

INTELLIGENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Biological Warfare Intelligence in Support of Research and
Development Planning**

1. For the information and background of the IAC there is attached (Tab A) a 1952 interchange of correspondence between the Secretary of Defense and the DCI on this subject. It will be noted that there is included therein a list of the actions which the agencies then undertook to strengthen both collection and research in this field.

2. The DCI has recently received a letter (Tab B) from the Department of Defense which requests a review of the progress made since the earlier correspondence and which indicates that such review would be most helpful to the Department in the planning of biological warfare research and development programs.

3. It would appear to be a mutual responsibility of the intelligence agencies concerned to see that, in response to its planning needs, the Department of Defense is provided with intelligence estimates on BW capabilities comprehensive of both basic science and technology, and assessments of Soviet intentions to wage biological warfare.

4. An estimate of BW capabilities and intentions to develop such capabilities would appear to be handled most appropriately by the SEC. An estimate of intentions to employ BW seems more in the

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nature of a national intelligence estimate. Although previous estimates (i.e., NIE-18 and 31) dealt in part with the latter question, it now appears advisable to prepare an estimate which focuses on Soviet intentions to employ BW.

5. Accordingly, it is recommended (a) that the SEC prepare, by 15 March 1954, an estimate of Soviet capabilities and intentions to develop BW, the estimate to be comprehensive of both basic science and technology; (b) that upon completion of 5(a) above the Board of National Estimates confer with the representatives of the IAC as to the feasibility of writing an NIE on the subject of Soviet intentions to employ BW or treating the subject in estimates now scheduled for production in the last quarter of 1954; and (c) that the IAC concur in the draft letter from the DCI to the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Research and Development) (Tab C).

6. In order that the deficiencies in our BW intelligence are determined and appropriate further action is taken to improve BW intelligence, it is further recommended that the SEC determine the critical deficiencies in BW intelligence and recommend to the IAC means for eliminating them.


Secretary

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TAB C to
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MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
(Research and Development)

SUBJECT : Requirement for Intelligence Information on Soviet
Activities in Biological Warfare Research,
Development and Production

1. In your memorandum of 5 November 1953 (subject as above) you suggest a review of the progress made on biological warfare intelligence as a result of action which was taken by General Smith, as discussed in his letter of 25 October 1952. I assure you that the IAC agencies are continuing their efforts to improve intelligence in this critical field.

2. Rather than detailing the administrative steps we have been, and are, taking to improve BW intelligence, may I suggest that your needs in the planning of biological warfare research and development programs would appear to be more directly served by an intelligence estimate of Soviet biological warfare capabilities and intentions, with as much supporting detail as is available.

3. Accordingly, in order to be as helpful as possible, the IAC has agreed to prepare a scientific and technical intelligence estimate on USSR BW capabilities and their intentions to develop such capabilities. This would be as comprehensive and complete as our available information will allow and will be undertaken at once, scheduled for completion by March 15, 1954, and will be

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revised periodically as warranted by new intelligence. I am asking the Chairman of the Scientific Estimates Committee, which will prepare this estimate, to consult with your planners initially so that the terms of reference of the estimate will meet your needs as nearly as possible.

4. In addition, subsequent to the findings of the SEC, a separate estimate may be produced on Soviet capabilities and intentions to employ BW, or this subject will be treated in estimates now scheduled for production in late 1954.

5. It should be noted that, while there has been a continuing increase in our knowledge of the underlying capabilities of the USSR for research, development and production of BW agents, our knowledge of actual Soviet BW activities has not improved significantly.

ALLEN W. DULLES
Director

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