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2000/05/22 : CIA-RDP61S00750A000100150064-3

28 September 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Financing ERS

1. I strongly believe that the External Research Staff (ERS) should be financed by the several agencies in the Federal Government that it serves. These include CIA, Defense, FOA, State, and USIA.
2. The main reason for this belief is the fact that ERS, in order to be of maximum service, must at the same time serve and be served by the agencies for which it works. The chief function of ERS is to make available to each agency information about other agencies' research. To do this, ERS must have available to it complete information from each agency about its contemplated, ongoing, and completed projects.
3. Agencies in the Federal Government are notoriously reluctant to tell each other what they are doing. It is next to impossible, moreover, for a CIA researcher to find out what the Rand Corporation is doing for the Air Force or what the Operations Research Office is doing for the Army.
4. ERS has found through experience that the most effective way of getting information from an agency's research administrator is to have the latter ordered, if necessary, to provide such information by high level persons in each organization who are aware of their agency's stake in the ERS operation. For example, until 1953 ERS had virtually no success in getting the Defense Department or its contractors to make reports on their research. Even after Defense had contributed \$30,000 to ERS there was a certain reluctance on the part of the Departments of the Army and Air Force and their contractors to report their

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projects. The Chief of ERS thereupon informed the Office of Under Secretary of Defense that it was impossible for him to carry out the mission for which Defense had contributed \$30,000 unless the constituent agencies of Defense cooperated. The Under Secretary immediately ordered Army and Air Force and their contractors to report their research to ERS. The reports were produced within 48 hours. Such cooperation, I maintain, would be impossible unless the agencies had a financial stake in ERS.

5. I recommend that the DCI urge State and Defense to continue, along with CIA, to contribute to the support of ERS and that he suggest that USIA and FOA also make financial contributions to ERS.

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Office of the Special Assistant
to the Director
for Planning and Coordination

CEH:aml (28 September 1954)

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