

3 March 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Geographic Research  
THROUGH: Chief, Geography Division  
SUBJECT: Africa Committee  
REFERENCE: Memorandum dated 9 January 1959, Subject:  
Transmittal of a "Program for Africa"

1. It is recommended that the Geographic Research Area sponsor the formation of an informal Africa Committee made up of personnel from several components of the intelligence community. The objectives of the Committee will be the following:

- a. Provide a clearing house for the exchange of information on Africa for intelligence purposes.
- b. Provide a mechanism for discussion of specific problems of research on Africa.
- c. Identify the deficiencies in intelligence on Africa and stimulate remedial action where appropriate.
- d. Facilitate community coordination on African research and promote effective use of intelligence resources on Africa.
- e. Achieve an awareness in the intelligence community of government research personnel and programs concerned with Africa.
- f. Promote a general awareness in the intelligence community of the significant developments that are taking place in Africa.

The Committee will function essentially as a CIA undertaking, but with full participation by personnel of other agencies who have responsibilities or interests in Africa. Chairmanship of the Committee will rotate among the CIA participants.

2. It is proposed that the Near East Africa Branch, Geography Division, undertake to establish the Africa Committee in accordance

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with the attached draft Project Initiation Memorandum. Participants will be sought from the following offices or agencies:

CIA

ORR, CBS, St/P, St/I  
OCI  
ONE  
ID/P - Africa Division, OIS

State

IRA

Army

ACSI

Air Force

AFCIN-3

Navy

ONI

USIS

ICA

Agencies outside of CIA will be contacted only after the committee is fully established and operating. There may be a result be some change in the composition of the list of outside participants to accord with the recommendations of the charter group. All participants will be instructed as to the wholly informal, unofficial status of the Committee. It is anticipated that the benefits that will accrue to participants from the activities of the Committee will provide sufficient motive and cohesiveness to sustain the organization.

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3. The first meeting of the Committee will consider the following matters:

- a. Introduction of persons present.
- b. Determination of the manner in which the Committee will function, including time, place, duration of meetings, circulation of agenda and minutes, chairmanship, and secretarial support (available initially from within the GRA).
- c. Tentative consideration of other offices and agencies that should be represented.
- d. Agenda for the next meeting.

4. At subsequent meetings, it is hoped to build discussion around specific topics that are presented by regular or guest participants. Such presentations would include informal talks on the research of the various office and agencies programs, services available to researchers on Africa, individual projects and research problems of general interest, and proposals for developing intelligence capabilities on Africa. It is anticipated, however, that much of the committee's pay dirt will be found in its function of bringing analysts together to share ideas and experiences.

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Chief, Near East-Africa Branch

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