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MEMORANDUM FOR FILE

5 May 1951

Subject: Export Control of Technical Data

1. A meeting was held today of the Committee on Industrial Security which is a subcommittee of the Interdepartmental Committee on Internal Security. The meeting was chaired by Rossinger of Commerce and the others present were:

Bienvenu-Justice	Brown-AEC
Graff-Smithsonian	Sanders-FBI
Nordbeck-State	Gable-Civil Defense
Winter-State	Riley-Interior
Brush-State	Dedman-Justice
Clapp-LC	Applegate-Defense
Salisbury-AEC	██████████-CIA 25X1A9a

2. The meeting was called as a result of a reply by the Secretary of Defense to a letter from Dr. Luther Evans, Librarian of Congress, identical with the one addressed to the DCI dated 28 February 1951. While General Marshall's letter was not read or made available, it apparently questioned the value of incoming Russian published material, and recommended some sort of security screening for U. S. technical data being sent out under existing exchange arrangements with the Soviet orbit. Representatives from Library of Congress, Smithsonian, State, AEC, and CIA had been invited to appear before the Committee to give evidence on these two points. The guest agencies uniformly took the position that this country would lose immeasurably from any measures to control the export of technical data which resulted in reprisals by the Soviets. Numerous specific examples were cited by Library of Congress, State, AEC, and CIA indicating the immense value of the material we are receiving under exchange arrangements. This value covered broadly two interests; that of Intelligence, and that of Research and Development both governmental and civilian.

3. In regard to security screening of outgoing material, AEC cited its own policy regarding security of information, and indicated that similar government-wide program was certainly possible though involving enormous costs. It was pointed out that the primary offender in publishing technical information which might be of use to Russia was not the civilian publishing houses or the scientific journals, but essentially the U. S. Government itself.

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4. State, Smithsonian and Library of Congress were very insistent that the present defective embargo on export be eliminated in order that we may get back to our previous position and not jeopardize existing exchange arrangements while the question is being settled of what we will ultimately do. These agencies pointed out that large shipments authorized under existing treaties are currently being held up with the possibility that reprisals may be started by Russia even before a decision had been reached in this country that an embargo is necessary.

5. A full recording of the testimony given at the meeting was made, and will be provided to each participating agency.

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