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Director of Logistics

Acting Chief, Real Estate and
Construction Division

Major Alterations to the Power Generating Plant at [REDACTED]
by Office of Communications, Comments Concerning

26 November 1956

REF: Memorandum to Director of Logistics from Director of Communications
dated 30 June 1955

1. On 9 November 1956 this Division received information by a copy of DIR 38923 (OUT 50099) that the Office of Communications had approved the expenditure of \$4,000 for new construction to enlarge the generating plant at the [REDACTED]

2. After discussing the details of this approval with OC-E the following information was obtained:

a. Immediate action was required to increase the power generating capacity at the transmitter and receiving stations due to rapid changes in the political situation in the [REDACTED]

b. To accomplish the above the Office of Communications estimated the maximum power requirements and authorized replacement of three existing 30 KW generators at the receiver station with three 60 KW generators and the three existing 60 KW generators at the transmitter station with four 100 KW generators procuring the generator equipment from Office of Communication stocks.

c. Authorized the alterations and expenditure of funds to implement this decision without technical guidance from Real Estate and Construction Division.

3. Due to the apparent urgency of the situation and in an effort to assist in every way possible to expedite the preparation of such detail information which might be needed by the field, representatives of this office met with OC-E and offered the services of the electrical and mechanical engineers of this office. The OC-E representatives were appreciative of this offer but stated that all details had been worked out and that sufficient time was not available for Real Estate and Construction Division to review the plans, etc., which were prepared by their office. They stated that this was within the authority retained by Office of Communication in reference memorandum which stated that Office of Communications assumed responsibility for communications installations. OC-E interpreted this in a broad sense to include all station facilities, not limiting it to purely communications facilities.

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4. This office is concerned about what was done in this instance since the details of the plans were not prepared or reviewed by technically qualified personnel. Thus, the system as installed might not provide for the requirements when urgently needed. It is felt that sufficient time existed for a complete engineering study of this project if O/C had made this office aware of the requirements as soon as they developed.

5. Since this independent action by O/C is not uncommon in connection with power generating plants, it is requested that the degree of responsibility between O/C and RE&CD/OL be more clearly defined. It is the opinion of this office, (a) that the installation of a power generator for supplying power to purely communication equipment such as radio transmitters, receivers, and allied equipment is within the cognizance of Office of Communications, (b) that when generator capacity exceeds the foregoing needs and supplies power to other station operational requirements such as air conditioning, heating, lights, utilities, etc., in addition to purely communications equipment the project should be under the cognizance of Real Estate and Construction Division and (c) that the total cost of an alteration including labor, equipment, installation cost, building cost, etc., should determine who has the authority to approve the project. Office of Communications assumed that the only cost involved was the \$4,000 for new construction and did not include costs of the new generator equipment, installation cost, etc., which if included, would have increased the total cost of this project to about \$40,000.

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