

Official Diary

Tuesday, 27 January 1953

1. Attended the morning meeting of the Board of National Estimates, during which the following points were discussed:

a. I indicated that I had reversed my decision and had approved the issuance of the AE Semi-Annual Report as NSIE #1, in view of the Board's feeling on the matter. I did, however, express my feeling that the Board was making a serious mistake in washing its hands of this type of estimate rather than adapting its procedures so as to develop the capability of passing it through the Board procedure or some reasonable facsimile thereof. We agreed to continue this discussion at some later time, since I was called away from the meeting before we could conclude.

b. The question was raised as to periodical revisions of the National Intelligence Digest. Certain Board members expressed themselves as opposed to keeping this volume up to date. When, however, it was explained that this would involve merely summarizing or reprinting the conclusions of major national estimates, while the current intelligence portion could be done by OCI, the Board seemed to agree that this volume should be kept up to date. I feel rather strongly that this is an extremely valuable reference work and assured the Board that it would not be used in substitution for the National Intelligence process.

2. At the morning meeting informed Mr. Dulles that the plane shot down near Swatow was on a photo recce. mission, and was flying as low as 300 feet.

3. Informed Mr. Dulles that Admiral Radford et al would be in Washington in the near future. I did not attempt to brief Mr. Dulles on the details respecting Tripartite Conferences but merely pointed out that the question might be raised and in such event Mr. Dulles would want to be briefed by [redacted] and myself, since there were some fairly serious issues involved. 25X1A9a

4. At the morning meeting took the occasion to repeat my prior comment that the entire Soviet world was in a state of watchful waiting. This intelligence view should be considered in laying on various types of covert activities which might come to the attention of the Soviet or Chinese.

5. At the morning meeting, which was attended by General Cabell, I indicated the desirability of having both Mr. Dulles and General Cabell thoroughly briefed on CIA's policies and practices with respect to the USCIB complex. Both of them indicated that they had read the Brownell Committee report. Later in the day I requested [redacted] to have prepared an appropriate written briefing, since General Cabell, particularly, desires to read over some material before being briefed orally. 25X1A9a

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6. Mr. Reber consulted me on the IAC for this week. Since there was no estimate awaiting action, I authorized him to cancel the meeting.

7. Had a dry-run of the NSC briefing with DCI at State Department and later, in accordance with his suggestions, revised the same.

8. Chatted with General Roth and Mr. Brewer of the office of Sec/Def respecting the "B" project. They proposed that a joint CIA/Defense team re-evaluate the project with a view of having it taken over by CIA or phased out. I designated [redacted] as my representative and [redacted] as representing the DD/P complex. Arrangements were made for these gentlemen, together with Mr. Brewer and General Ackerman (in the place of General Roth) to visit Columbus next Monday. Ultimately some investigations will be necessary [redacted] I repeated to Mr. Brewer the general tenor of my recent remarks to General Roth as to CIA's views on the way in which the project should be continued, pending a determination as to its ultimate disposition.

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9. General McClelland phoned and indicated that the laboratory referred to by [redacted] was unclearable. Certain individuals in it are under current investigation by FBI. I later phoned [redacted] and suggested that before he took any further action with the laboratory, he have a talk with the FBI. [redacted] inquired as to our evaluation of the technical products of the laboratory (in some of which General McClelland assured me we are definitely interested) but I was unwilling to discuss that point on the phone.

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10. Discussed with [redacted] the briefing of General Cabell by the intelligence offices. I indicated that I would like to brief him concerning the activities of my office and then pass him on to the various ADs for an intensive tour through their shops. Later spoke to [redacted] as to the need for preparing such a briefing.

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11. [redacted] gave me a preliminary report to the effect that there is very loose control over NIEs sent to State missions abroad and, in all probability, National Estimates are maintained in files overseas. He is preparing a written report on this which will require some consideration as to our future policy. State is providing a list of all NIE's that have been sent to overseas missions, specifying the missions.

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12. Requested [redacted] to discuss formally with State the desirability of holding up the initiation of a committee to coordinate intelligence research for psychological warfare. I felt that this subject would almost certainly be dealt with by the Jackson Committee (particularly since DD/P has made available [redacted] for work as a staff assistant) and we were making definite progress without the necessity of a committee mechanism. It was my general view that a committee should be a last resort in the field of coordination.

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13. [REDACTED] of OSI consulted me on a problem respecting the technical guidance group within the DD/P complex which, in their view, is acting as a bottle-neck insofar as relations between the operators and OSI are concerned. After some discussion I requested them to prepare a staff study recommending the appointment of an impartial group to survey this situation and recommend action to DD/P and myself. The name of [REDACTED] was mentioned as a possible chairman of such a group.

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