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Approved For Release 2004/12/01 : CIA-RDP79R01095A000800060001-7

22 July 1963

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Handling of Soviet Submarine Study

1. Prior to the time of the USIB meeting last week (17 July), this office had been making arrangements for a meeting of the Board of National Estimates and the USIB representatives to consider the problem of the missing Soviet submarines. The objective of our arrangements was to have the facts in the matter reviewed by ONE, DIA, NSA and NFIC, and on the basis of this review to consider whether to recommend a Memorandum to Holders of our latest estimate on this subject, NIE 11-4-63 of 22 March 1963.

2. The submarine problem was discussed in Executive Session at the USIB meeting. According to the draft minutes, Item 5, it was decided that Adm. Taylor should set up a working group composed of representatives of CIA, NSA, DIA, and NIC, to review the evidence regarding strength and disposition of Soviet submarines. This Office is in full agreement that the creation of such a working group is a desirable way to bring the resources of the several agencies to bear on the problem at this time.

3. A conflict of instructions has developed, however, because the USIB decision was taken in Executive Session after I had withdrawn

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from the room and because when I checked afterwards with the CIA member who attended the Executive Session I was not informed of the USIB decision. Accordingly, this Office proceeded to issue a memorandum calling for the Board and representatives meeting which we had been arranging. We scheduled our meeting for Thursday, 25 July. The ONI representative called us as soon as our memo was received to say that it was in conflict with the USIB decision. He indicated that Adm. Taylor's group expected to report back directly to USIB when its work was completed.

4. I see no reason why Adm. Taylor's group should not report directly to USIB. I believe, however, that in a matter which directly affects an existing National Estimate, it would be desirable to have the results of the working group's study made available initially to the Board of National Estimates and the representatives of all the USIB members, so that simultaneously with the report to USIB by the working group there could also be presented to USIB a coordinated recommendation as to whether a Memorandum to Holders should be issued. I therefore recommend that Admiral Taylor's group be requested to make its initial presentation to the Board of National Estimates and the USIB representatives.

5. If this arrangement is acceptable, we will postpone the meeting we had scheduled for 25 July until such time as the Taylor group completes its study. If the Taylor group is to report initially to USIB, we will cancel our meeting.

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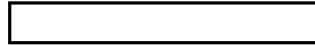
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6. Conflicts of this sort could be avoided if the CIA representation at USIB made certain that whenever a matter pertaining to National Estimates was discussed at USIB in Executive Session, the Chairman of the Board of National Estimates was in attendance.

SHERMAN KENT

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18 July 1963

SUBJECT: Representatives' Consideration of New Evidence on
Soviet Submarine Strengths

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