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INFORMAL MINUTES OF MEETING OF DIRECTOR AND CONSULTANTS
INTERDEPARTMENTAL FOREIGN INFORMATION ORGANIZATION -
September 13, 1950 - at home of the Director

Present:

Department of State - Mr. Barrett, Director
Mr. Stone, Executive Secretary
Mr. Sargeant
Mr. Phillips
Mr. Oechsner

Department of Defense - General Magruder
Joint Chiefs of Staff - Admiral Stevens
National Security Resources Board - Mr. Sheppard
Central Intelligence Agency - [REDACTED]
Economic Cooperation Administration - Mr. Berding

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The following questions were discussed:

1. Use of balloons for propaganda purposes.
2. Countering Soviet propaganda.

With respect to balloons, it was agreed:

(a) That use of balloons directed against Iron Curtain areas would not at this time achieve any important propaganda or technical advantages, but might on the contrary lead to serious Soviet countermeasures;

(b) That the potential value of balloons as a propaganda device is sufficiently established to justify the further development and stocking of balloons for use in a major emergency or in time of war;

(c) That ^{OPC}OSR should be responsible to the Psychological Strategy Board for the developing and stocking of suitable types of balloons for use in emergency or war. 25X1A

[REDACTED] undertook to assign a qualified expert to head this project and indicated that CIA would be in a position to make funds available. Detailed specifications and terms of reference will be submitted to the Board. Mr. Barrett indicated that the State Department would be prepared to contribute funds to the project.

With respect to item two on the agenda, the discussion brought out a clear distinction between the techniques employed in propaganda directed to areas under Soviet

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control and areas of the non Soviet world. In output to Iron Curtain areas, it was agreed that VOA and other media should answer ~~all major falsifications~~ of Soviet propaganda by means which would "keep the record straight" without giving the propaganda initiative to Moscow. It was suggested that a special section of VOA might be set up for the specific purpose of keeping the record straight. The following additional matters were discussed briefly:

*See
prior
minutes*

Mr. Barrett proposed that a report on private psychological warfare efforts would be useful and requested to report on covert efforts and Mr. Stone to report on overt efforts, both to report at the Board meeting on Monday, September 25.

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IFIS was assigned the project of preparing a staff study on the present availability of small, cheap radio receivers for distribution in both eastern and western Europe, with the view of the appropriate political desks on the introduction of these sets by infiltration and other means.

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