10 December 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Resume of OCB Luncheon Meeting, 10 December 1958

PRESENT: Mr. Coughran, Mr. Dulles, Mr. Gray, Mr. Harr,

Mr. Herter, Mr. McCone, Mr. Quarles, Mr. Smith,

Mr. Washburn, Mr. Melbourne

1. Berlin

There was a brief general discussion on the latest developments in the Berlin situation. Mr. Herter said that the State Department has drafted a study on the legal aspects involved in maintaining the status of West Berlin, and Allied access thereto. He said he would send a copy of this to Mr. Dulles.

Mr. Herter stated that the French are raising objections to developing an immediate answer to the Soviet proposal to make Berlin a Free City, preferring to have a full scale Allied meeting to discuss the situation at length before coming to a firm agreed position.

2. Report on Mr. Smith's African Trip

The Director of ICA reported on the recent trip that he, together with a number of scientific experts, has just completed to various African countries.

Mr. Smith said that he was most concerned with the almost total lack of educational facilities and of printed matter in many of these countries. He said he thought it might be necessary to develop new techniques of education to meet the peculiar conditions obtaining in Africa. He noted that the British have the idea that the best way to meet this problem is to select a few potential leaders and educate them, but he thought that a broader-based treatment was feasible and more desirable.

Among the miscellaneous points made by Mr. Smith were the following: The economic and political condition of Liberia is discouraging as contrasted to that of Ghana. The cost of establishing and maintaining American advisors in these countries is far greater than the cost for individuals of other nationalities. It is interesting to note that in most of the countries visited the local officials did not refer in any way to Communists or to the menace of Soviet bloc imperialism, even in the context of providing a reason for increased U.S. aid.

(An official report on the trip is expected to be completed by mid-January and will be available to interested agencies at that time.)

3. Nuclear Fallout

The desirability of capitalizing on the great disparity between the fallout deriving from recent Soviet nuclear tests and that attributable to our tests was discussed once again. Mr. Herter said that further discussions had been held in the Department of State and that he now felt that this point should be extensively exploited in an appropriate manner. Mr. McCone strongly backed this position and the rest of the Board was in general agreement.

It was agreed that Japan presents probably the most fertile area and that the recent stories from Denmark and from Norway, in which Scandinavians have complained bitterly about the rise in radioactivity due to Soviet tests, could constitute a point of departure.

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4. Countering Soviet Propaganda on Economic Progress

The paper prepared by the Freers Committee on the above subject and attached to the Weekly Activity Report was discussed in general

2

terms. This contained recommendations that the U.S., through the State of the Union message and elsewhere, should rebut Soviet propaganda on the superiority of their economic progress as contrasted to ours. The State and Treasury representatives felt that it was premature to follow through on a recommendation of this kind, while Mr. Harr and Mr. McCone were in favor of the recommendations. It was agreed that the report should be returned to the Freers Committee for further study.

ALLEN W. DULLES

Director

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