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3 September 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Resume of OCB Luncheon Meeting, 3 September 1958

PRESENT: Mr. Allen, Mr. Berding (State), Gen. Cabell,  
Mr. Saccio (ICA), Adm. Foster, Mr. Harr,  
Mr. Reinhardt (State), Mr. Sprague, Mr. Staats

1. Paper on Probable Free World Reactions to U.S.  
Action with Respect to the Taiwan Strait

The paper which had been circulated to the Board members on the above subject was discussed. General Cabell said that an NIE would not be the proper vehicle for an estimate on this subject and that as a matter of fact CIA was about to disseminate a draft for Community coordination.

Mr. Allen asked how the views of the USIA could be incorporated into such a paper. General Cabell replied that normally no mechanism exists for formal participation by the USIA or any other agency outside the intelligence community; however, he said that contributions from a knowledgeable and responsible source of this kind would of course be welcomed and would be valuable.

With regard to the paper before the Board, General Cabell said that he thought it was inadequate, particularly with respect to its tendency to equate world public opinion with the opinion of foreign governments. He emphasized that it is essential to make a distinction between these two things. It is also inadequate in that it does not properly cover the reaction in event of non-intervention.

General Cabell also expressed the view that the Board's function is not to attempt to influence major decisions such as whether or not to intervene in the current crisis in the Far East, but that it is rather to explore ways of mitigating the effects of such a situation abroad after the decision is made. The Board did not specifically meet this broad point.

NSC review(s) completed.

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However, it was reported that, at Mr. Herter's suggestion, an ad hoc committee would be convened by Mr. Robertson, consisting of himself and representatives of Defense, CIA and USIA. The purpose of this group would be to provide a flexible medium for assessing the changing situation and considering courses of action designed to carry out the Board's function in this situation.

2. U.S. Bases Overseas

The discussion on this subject was continued from previous meetings. The Board agreed that five areas where we now have American bases present problems which might lead to our having to withdraw. These are: Spain, Morocco, Libya, Dhahran and Japan. It was agreed that the Board would not make recommendations either as to action to be taken or as to who would study the problem, but that the President should be apprised of the feeling of the Board that this situation is a potentially troublesome one.

3. Proposed AEC Press Release

Admiral Foster distributed a draft of a proposed press release announcing the completion of the Eniwetok testing series and the disestablishment of the danger area around the proving grounds. It was decided that this release should be brought back to the Board at a later meeting.



C. P. CABELL  
General, USAF  
Acting Director

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