

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

12 December 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence**SUBJECT: Abolition of the Planning Coordination Group**

There is attached a full memorandum discussing the various drafts and positions which have been taken with regard to the termination of the PCG. The matter has now been boiled down to difference of view on one point, i. e., what officials shall be charged with giving policy approval to major covert programs under NSC 5412/1 as it may be revised.

Nelson Rockefeller's position has been that the giving of such approval and the arranging for support of CIA programs should be the function of the designated representatives of the Secretaries of State and Defense and himself. Mr. Hoover has taken the position that it should be merely the designated representatives of the Secretaries of State and Defense and that Mr. Rockefeller should not be included. The last Rockefeller proposal is that the procedure should be the same as existed prior to the creation of PCG. This means in substance that the whole OCB would be charged with responsibilities under 5412/1 including, of course, Mr. Rockefeller.

The position which you have taken heretofore is that you did not wish to express any view as to whether Mr. Rockefeller should or should not be concerned with approval of major covert programs and would leave the solution of that matter to others. It is recommended, however, that you dissent from Mr. Rockefeller's last proposal, i. e., to reinstate the whole OCB. There are present at the OCB lunches, which is presumably the time when OCB would act on covert programs, a number of people who have no need-to-know. Furthermore, having these matters come up at the OCB lunches puts them into the OCB mechanism so that Elmer Staats prepares special minutes which are circulated to all OCB members. This procedure is not necessary and might result in compromise of the secrecy of CIA operations. While it is true that there are cases in which it is desirable to advise ICA and sometimes USIA regarding covert operations, the overwhelming bulk of cases involves only State and Defense and it is easy enough to arrange to cut in ICA (which of course is a part of State) and USIA in

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these few cases which they need to know about. There is attached to this memorandum a paper dated October 10, 1955, which I drafted and which discusses the revision of the 5412 procedure, suggests specific amendments to 5412/1 and proposes operating procedures under such an amendment. You read this paper and told me on October 31 that you approved. It was drafted on the assumption that Nelson Rockefeller would be included in the policy approval group. If it is decided that he will not be included, the section in brackets in the draft amendment would be omitted. I believe that the amendment which we proposed and the operating procedures described in my memorandum would be satisfactory to both State and Defense. The only issue to be resolved is whether or not Mr. Rockefeller is included in the approval mechanism. If he is to be included, it is much better to have him specifically included together with the representatives of State and Defense rather than to throw the whole matter back into the OCB mechanism.

/signed/
 Wayne G. Jackson
 Special Assistant to the Director

Attachments

SA/DCI/WGJackson/mb

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