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20 November 1948

MEMORANDUM

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To: [REDACTED]

From: Mr. Buffington

Subject: Representation on Biological Warfare Committee in Office of Secretary of Defense

1. Major James E. McHugh is currently detailed to the Office of the Secretary of Defense (Office of Civilian Defense Planning) by the Chief of the Chemical Corps, Department of the Army, as an expert advisor on matters pertaining to Biological Warfare and Gas Warfare. I have been informed by Major McHugh that he is preparing to establish a committee or panel for the further study of the effects of Biological Warfare on civilian populations. This will be done by way of extension of the preliminary work done in that field in the recently released report entitled "Civilian Defense for National Security" prepared for the Secretary of Defense by the Office of Civilian Defense Planning.

2. The committee or panel will have on it representatives of Army, Navy and Air intelligence agencies and other governmental departments. Major McHugh has asked me to determine whether or not the Central Intelligence Agency feels it should be represented on this committee and, if so, whether or not I could be designated as its representative to sit with the committee from time to time.

3. It is my personal view that Central Intelligence Agency, through the Office of Policy Coordination, should be represented on the committee. I believe this to be one medium of contact for obtaining information and developments respecting Biological Warfare in its special application to civilians. I feel qualified to act as representative of this office in view of my past association with the Office of Civilian Defense Planning in the Office of the Secretary of Defense and my personal association with Major McHugh in his evolving of that portion of the report which had to do with Biological Warfare.

MILTON W. BUFFINGTON

MWB:az

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