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INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE ACQUISITION OF FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS

Minutes

DEC 2 1943

Meeting of 7 December 1943

PRESENT:

Treasury Department
Office of Strategic Services
War Department
Office of War Information
Commerce Department
Library of Congress
Foreign Economic Administration
State Department

Executive Secretary
Interdepartmental Committee

Mr. Southworth
Mr. Read
Major Hale
Dr. Krould
Mr. Domratsky
Mr. Moriarty
Mr. Chaput
Mr. Gerber
Mr. Page
Ensign Kilgour
Miss Reynolds
Miss Kodadek

Ensign Kilgour presided.

The Minutes of the Meeting of 23 November 1943 were approved as distributed.

Mr. Page read a paraphrase of a recent telegram from Moscow.

The telegram described the procedures employed by the Embassy and listed 76 additional titles for which subscriptions may be entered.

It also reported that 184 subscriptions had been entered between December 1942 and November 1943 and that the Embassy had been receiving and forwarding 157 of these titles; 48 titles were listed for which subscriptions had been refused. The Embassy noted that the difficulties in acquiring books were similar to those discussed in connection with the acquisition of periodicals; it had been impossible for the Embassy to obtain 53 books which it had attempted to purchase. The irregularity

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of the air service between Moscow and Teheran was further described. The necessary parts for the Microfilm Camera had arrived in Moscow, and the Embassy reported that it was ready to start microfilming. Clarification of instructions as to what should be microfilmed were requested, but the Embassy expressed the hope that microfilming could be kept at a minimum because of the limitations of the Embassy's staff.

Mr. Page and Mr. Gerber also reported that telegrams had been received from Teheran and Cairo which indicated that there was no delay at these two points in the transmission of pouches from Moscow to Washington.

There followed a lengthy debate on the problems and procedures for obtaining Russian publications. Mr. Chaput moved that the Executive Secretary be instructed to request the Department of State to authorize an appointment to the Embassy at Moscow of an Interdepartmental Committee Representative who, working under the direct supervision of the Ambassador, would acquire and facilitate the transportation of publications to the Interdepartmental Committee and its constituent Agencies. Mr. Moriarty seconded the motion. The question was put to vote by calling the roll. The representatives from OSS, OWI, Library of Congress, and FEA voted "Yes," the representative from the Treasury Department noted "No," and the representatives from the War Department and State Department voted "Present."

The chair reported that the Archivist of the United States had requested the Committee to obtain 12 European archival periodicals. The Committee agreed that this request should be honored.

Mr. Domeratsky had written the chair pointing out that the Department of Commerce has the most complete file in Washington of the Deutsches Handels-Archive for 1870-1940, and requested that the Committee make an effort to obtain physical copies of the missing issues for 1941 and later dates. The Committee approved.

The chair reported that the first draft of the Budget Request for 1945 had been submitted and it totaled \$1,025,000.

Mr. Gerber stated that the Legation at Stockholm had suggested that Miss Kibre be appointed an "Attache" and that the Department of State had approved the appointment subject to the Committee's approval and the understanding that a precedent would not be established by making this appointment. The Committee approved.

Mr. Gerber also reported that the Consulate General at Istanbul had been unable to arrange for travelers to purchase Balkan publications because no travelers were willing to undertake obtaining the vendors' signatures on U.S. Government vouchers. The Consulate General had suggested the use of unvouchered funds. The Committee asked the chair to try to make some unvouchered funds available to the Consulate General.