

15 June 1949

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. OFFIE

SUBJECT: Proposed OPC "Party Line" with Certain Key People in Washington

1. I am more than a bit leery of the proposal contained in the attached memorandum to the effect that OPC take the specified line with "Certain Key People in Washington".

2. The reasons for my concern are various, and include the following:

a. The frank recognition of the "inevitableness" and even the nearness of the third world war will not only be distasteful and even irritating to certain of our principal supporters but represents a very material departure from what I have been given to understand by George Kennan, Al Wedemeyer and Mr. Lovett as being the underlying policy of the concept of OPC, viz. that it is possible to avert a third world war by drastic actions of an affirmative character short of war and;

b. Unless the key people to be talked to are exactly the right ones and are in exactly the right mood at the moment, we may well be criticized for involving ourselves in an undesirable manner in high policy matters with which we are not concerned.

3. I grant that it is necessary for us to be completely realistic and I do not necessarily differ with your conclusions, but I am troubled about your approach as stated in this memorandum. I think it would be much wiser and safer for us to modify your proposed line, at least to the extent of saying that whereas we must continue to work all out in an effort to avert war, it is necessary for those giving us policy guidance to have steadily before them the possibility of war, and to make their own plans accordingly--leavening their policy guidance to us in a manner which would appropriately reflect their recognition of the real danger.

HISTORICAL DOCUMENT

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of the [unclear] of [unclear]

*FGW*  
FRANK G. WISNER

Assistant Director for  
Policy Coordination

HS/CSG-1623

Att: Memorandum dated 31 May, 1949, Subject: "Proposed OPC 'Party Line' with Certain Key People in Washington"

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DATE 15 June 49