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~~SC-M-11~~

27 October 1952

STAFF CONFERENCE

Minutes of Meeting Held in Director's
Conference Room, Administration Building
Monday, 27 October 1952, at 1100 Hours

General Smith Presiding

Frank G. Wisner, Acting Deputy Director
Richard Helms, Acting Deputy Director for Plans
Loftus E. Becker, Deputy Director for Intelligence
Walter Reid Wolf, Deputy Director for Administration
James M. Andrews, Assistant Director for Collection and Dissemination
George G. Carey, Assistant Director for Operations
Ralph L. Clark, Acting Director for Scientific Intelligence
L. S. Hitchcock, Acting Assistant Director for Research & Reports
Sherman Kent, Assistant Director for National Estimates
Major General Harold M. McClelland, Assistant Director for Communications
Lt. General William H. H. Morris, Jr., Assistant Director for Personnel
James Q. Reber, Assistant Director for Intelligence Coordination
Huntington D. Sheldon, Assistant Director for Current Intelligence
Colonel Matthew Baird, Director of Training
Brig. General Jesmond C. Balmer, Chief for Plans and Program Coordination
Tracy Barnes, Chief for Political and Psychological Warfare
Colonel Sheffield Edwards, Chief, Inspection and Security
Willis Gibbons, Chief of Technical Support
Franklin Lindsay, Deputy Chief, Political and Psychological Warfare
Lyle T. Shannon, Chief of Administration, Office of DD/P
Eric Timm, Chief of Foreign Intelligence
Brig. General John Weckerling, Chief of Paramilitary Staff
J. S. Earman, Executive Assistant to the Director
Robert W. Fuller, Assistant to the Director
Stanley J. Grogan, Assistant to the Director
Willard Galbraith, Office of the Inspector General

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1. Personnel

The Director, mentioning that the Agency had recently experienced some difficulties in various parts of the world, remarked that these difficulties stemmed, by and large, from the use of improperly trained or inferior personnel. He stated that until CIA could build a reserve of well-trained people, it would have to hold its activities to the limited number of operations that it could do well rather than to attempt to cover a broad field with poor performance. He reminded the meeting that the Agency's primary mission was intelligence and that he would do nothing that militated against accomplishing this objective. He also noted that the difficulties resulted in part from poor security practices, pointing up the need for greater and continuing emphasis on security.

2. Statements to the Press

The Director, citing the case of a correspondent who had obtained a story concerning CIA, asked Colonel Grogan if it were not possible to keep this story from being published or, if published, to have it so written that it would show no connection with the Agency. Colonel Grogan replied that this could be done and added that, in general, arrangements to stop a story could be made in individual cases.

General Smith remarked that when news correspondents request information regarding some story that they might have, involving CIA, they should be told nothing. He added that in rare cases, however, it might be necessary to go to the top man of a news organization in order to kill a story.

Colonel Grogan warned against off-the-record remarks. Regarding this, the Director stated that it is safe to make remarks "off the record" only when there is complete censorship, which we do not have in this country.

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