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SECURITY INFORMATION

5 September 1952

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. Becker, Deputy Director/Intelligence

SUBJECT: Briefing of General Eisenhower - 30 August 1952

1. We* departed from National Airport by commercial plane at 2210 hours Friday evening, 29 August. We arrived at LaGuardia Field, New York, at 2315 where we were met by [redacted] from the New York O/O Contact Office. He had provided transportation for us to the Contact Office at 205 East 42nd Street. On arrival there, we locked up the classified material in the CIA vault. [redacted] called [redacted] also of the Contact Office, and arranged for him to meet us at 0700 the following morning. We also arranged for a car to meet us at the Contact Office at 0700 the next morning to transport us to 60 Morningside Drive, General Eisenhower's residence. The car was arranged for on a CIA contract with a local transportation firm which provides a Cadillac with chauffeur. On our way from the contact office, we walked to the airlines ticket office on 42nd Street and arranged for return reservations the following day. (It is well to keep in mind that there is more than one airfield in New York. We requested reservations on a flight leaving LaGuardia and, unfortunately, on arrival there the following noon, learned that the reservations had been made on a flight departing from Idlewild.)

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2. We next went to the University Club, arriving about 0115 a.m. and thanks to [redacted] advanced arrangements, we got comfortable accommodations. We left the Club the next morning at 0620 by taxi to return to the Contact Office, about a ten-minute trip. On arrival there, we stopped at an Automat directly across the street for a quick breakfast. After eating we met [redacted] at the Contact Office and picked up the classified material from the vault. The car was waiting downstairs and we left for 60 Morningside Drive.

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3. Probably because of the Labor Day weekend, traffic was light, and it took only about 20 minutes to drive that distance. After an unhurried trip through Central Park, we arrived at General Eisenhower's residence at 0730 and were admitted by one of his servants. Mr. Ed Green, on General Eisenhower's staff, met us and informed us that the General was not yet available but he hoped to get us on the appointment calendar for 0745. We waited in the library at the General's residence and promptly at 0745, the General arrived and we were introduced to him as "the gentlemen from CIA." General Eisenhower then suggested going to an adjoining room to look at the material.

* I was accompanied by [redacted] Security Officer.

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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SECURITY INFORMATION

4. I opened the material in the General's presence, called his attention to the situation map and asked him if he were interested in reviewing the military disposition of the Soviet and Satellite armed forces as portrayed on the map. His one question was, "Has there been any significant change in the past couple of months?" Since my reply was, "No," that disposed of the need for a map and probably eliminated any necessity for bringing a similar map to any future briefing. The General then sat down and carefully read the briefing material. I pointed out specifically the review of the Iranian situation which had been prepared subsequent to the initial compilation of the briefing material. He completed reading the briefing in about 20 minutes during which time he made two comments, the first being on the trade situation between Japan and China. His comment was, "Since trade is one of our most powerful weapons, it seems to me that we should employ it to its maximum. Where are the Japanese going to get their materials if they can't get them from China?" The other situation which aroused comment was the French difficulties in North Africa. His comment on this situation being, "If the French don't do something fairly soon, they will have another Indochina on their hands." His general remarks at the conclusion of the briefing were, "This does not materially change the impression that I already had on most of these situations." I raised the question with the General about his desire for future similar briefings. He replied that he wanted future briefings but not necessarily on an urgent basis. I suggested that I arrange with Mr. Green for the time and the place for future briefings to which the General agreed. The General expressed his appreciation for the briefing and then withdrew to a breakfast conference.

5. In the subsequent discussions with Mr. Green, he pointed out that the General's schedule would take him out of New York until the 10th of September and that possibly the following weekend would be an appropriate time for another briefing. The specific arrangements for the next briefing will therefore have to be arranged by telephone with Mr. Green subsequent to the General's return to New York on 10 September. Because of General Eisenhower's full schedule, Mr. Green suggested that a briefing at approximately a two-week interval would be the most satisfactory, with the exception that if CIA deemed any development of sufficient significance to be called to General Eisenhower's attention, arrangements could then be made for an interim briefing.

6. We then returned to the Contact Office and again secured the classified material with [redacted]. We left the Contact Office and attended to personal affairs while waiting for plane departure time, and returned at 1130 at which time we again picked up the briefing material and were taken to LaGuardia Field by the same chauffeur that had taken us to the General's residence. Upon checking our reservations at the airlines desk, we discovered that our flight was erroneously scheduled out of Idlewild instead of LaGuardia. Fortunately, there were

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- 2 -
TOP SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

25 minutes before scheduled departure time and it was possible to change our reservations for another flight leaving at approximately 1230 from LaGuardia Field.

7. We left New York at 1145 and arrived at National Airport at about 1315. I called the CIA Watch Officer and requested transportation back to "Que" Building where we arrived at approximately 1340. I secured the material and reported the details of my trip to [redacted]. Later in the afternoon, I reached [redacted] by phone and reported that the mission had been completed.

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8. The mission from start to finish was as smoothly coordinated as any with which I have ever been associated. The representatives at the O/O Contact Office in New York met us upon arrival, arranged for transportation at the exact time when needed and there was no significant delay or unnecessary waiting during the entire trip. This to me was very unexpected and unusual considering that all the details had been arranged with only about three to four hours advance notice.

MELVIN I. HENDRICKSON
Acting Chief
Soviet Strategy Staff

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