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MINUTES OF THE GEOGRAPHIC RESEARCH AREA STAFF MEETING, 19 FEBRUARY 1957

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PRESENT: 

1. Competitive Promotion Program

The DD/I is circulating Notice No. 20-580-1, 18 February 1957, which outlines general responsibilities and procedures in connection with the CIA Competitive Promotion Program. The detail of procedures to be followed within ORR are not yet determined. However, the program must be initiated by the end of this month and completed by 1 January 1958.

2. Language Development Program

Copies of a proposed CIA Notice outlining the system of awards for language attainment are presently being circulated for Office comment.

3. Holiday

Washington's Birthday, 22 February, will be treated as a normal Saturday for staffing purposes.

4. Inter-Agency Committees

The SA/RR requires information on inter-agency committees which are chaired by CIA. D/GG, D/GC, and D/GL have provided the information; D/GP will reply later.

5. Retirement of Material from Vital Storage and Records Center

The AD/RR has asked for suggestions as to what criteria should guide the transfer of material to Vital Storage and Records Center and the destruction of superannuated material in Records Center. Each Division will consider the problem on the basis of its requirements and comment at the next staff meeting.

6. OIR Lectures

The ORR Training Officer states that research personnel should check each OIR Training Bulletin for lectures of interest to them, notifying him of those they may desire to attend. Special notification of forthcoming presentations will be made to interested branches or divisions only when the lecture is a one-time affair and not already publicized in the Bulletin.

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7. OIR Map Reading Course

25X1A9a [REDACTED] reported the completion of the first presentation of this course; two-thirds of the students passed. A commendation of D/GG and D/GL in connection with their support of the course has been received from OIR.

8. OIR Indoctrination

D/GG recommends against the assignment of personnel to the three-hour orientation program given by OIR, State Department. The content of the program seems too superficial to benefit working personnel.

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*9. Soviet Capabilities in Aerial Photography

D/GG reported that it has been asked to prepare a briefing on this subject for Mr. Stassen. The group discussed the problems involved, including the heavy load already carried by [REDACTED] and concluded that D/GP should be brought into the task as much as possible. [REDACTED] will keep the Acting Chief/G informed of developments.

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