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24 May 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: Special Assistant to the Director
for Planning and Coordination

SUBJECT: External Research Coordinating
Activities, 7-21 May 1954

1. Research on Exploitation of Foreign Documents. The Agency has a continuing interest in three projects related to this subject:

a. Mechanical Translation: Of the several active experimental projects on mechanical translation in the country, the Agency has been most interested in the work of [redacted] working closely with [redacted] earlier this year demonstrated for the benefit of Agency and Defense personnel what he called a [redacted] version of a translating machine.

The Agency's position with respect to research on mechanical translation was set forth in a memo from General Cabell to the Deputy Secretary of Defense dated 12 May 1953 which stated that we were aware of the interest of the Department of Defense in sponsoring research and development in this field and that we would appreciate being informed about developments so that we could consider inclusion of the interests of the Agency in whatever projects might come into being.

The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Research and Development, Donald A. Quarles, announced that the Office of Naval Research would serve as the executive agent of the Department of Defense for negotiating with [redacted] on a possible contract. Both [redacted] and the Department of Defense will keep me informed on developments.

b. Mechanical Indexing: [redacted] Office of Scientific Intelligence (OSI), is interested in the development of a system whereby an analyst can retrieve materials relating to several subjects simultaneously instead of a single subject, which is the limit imposed by most present library code systems.

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The Agency has spent approximately [] in developing an experimental machine which is now housed in OSI. In addition, two machines to be built to specifications by [] have been ordered and will be delivered sometime next winter. OSI may request a rather sizable budget to permit it to continue internal research on this project. The Office of Collection and Dissemination is apt to oppose such a request on the grounds that it is the Office in the Agency responsible for such matters. Conflicts between these two Offices arise regularly and we may be expected periodically to be called upon to resolve them.

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c. Index of Italian Newspaper: I feel that analysts within the Agency and in other agencies within the intelligence community have made a good case for the need for an index of a leading Italian newspaper. However, the Chief of the Foreign Documents Division does not believe that this is a priority matter, hence cannot assign the preparation of such an index to his staff. I have discussed the matter informally with the Director of the [] who says that a graduate student in his school could probably prepare such a weekly index at a small cost. In order formally to determine the need for such an index, I have requested that the matter be discussed by an interagency committee on foreign document exploitation.

2. Proposed Research Projects Received from Outside the Agency.

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a. [] At my suggestion [] prepared a proposed operational survey of the contemporary press of Eastern Asia. My suggestion resulted from a need expressed by persons in the intelligence community for some kind of current digest of the East Asian press comparable to the [] which has been produced by [] for several years. The proposal submitted seems to me to be highly unrealistic in that it calls for a 3-year, [] effort to determine the feasibility of producing a digest. Nevertheless, I have requested comments on the proposal from several interested Offices and from the State Department. One way or another I feel that the Agency should take the leadership in having this kind of digest produced.

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b. [] At the suggestion of [] of ORR this organization presented

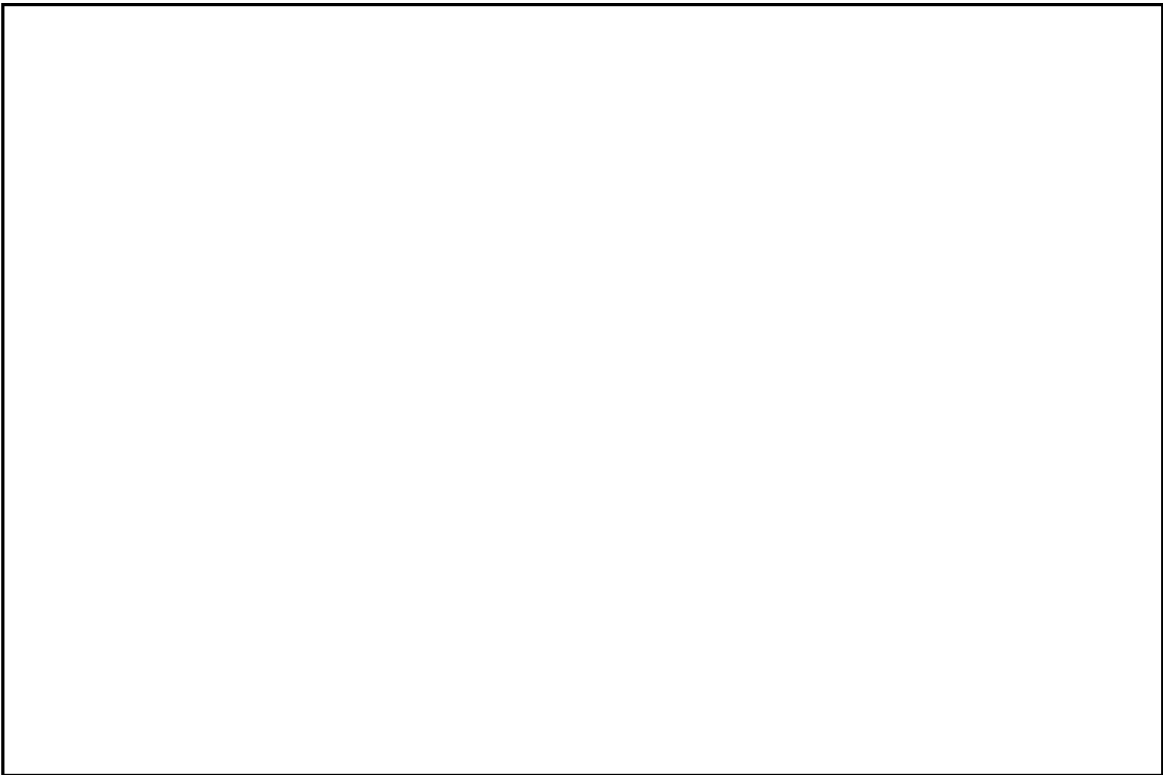
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outlines of proposed research on economic growth of Burma, Burma-China trade patterns, and certain anthropological aspects of Burma. I have arranged for a discussion of these projects next week.

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d. [redacted] At my suggestion the Director of the [redacted] submitted reports on projects [redacted] is now undertaking for a research contractor of the Department of the Army. One project deals with the [redacted]. ORR and DD/P are interested in the project but are not interested in supporting further research on this area. The other project deals with attitudes of [redacted] [redacted] in India. Questionnaires have been filled out by [redacted] and have been processed for a particular purpose. For a small additional cost they can be thoroughly processed. DD/P is interested in this project and a meeting on it will be held next week.



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[Redacted]

b. Report on Foundation Research Programs: The External Research Staff prepared a report on "Research Activities and Foundation Programs in the Near East, South East and Africa." Agency offices found the report useful and ORR and ONE made detailed constructive suggestions for future reports of this kind.

5. Distribution of Research Products: No new products were available for distribution during this period. DD/P requested 25 additional copies of [Redacted] paper for distribution overseas and the Office of Training requested five additional copies of all of [Redacted] papers produced to date.

6. Psychological Warfare Research: I attended the monthly informal meeting of agencies involved in psychological warfare research.

[Redacted]
an Army contractor, reported that a half dozen papers on psychological warfare research are reaching the publication stage. In addition, a new project designed to redefine psychological warfare has been started. Strategic vs. tactical, civilian vs. military, and long-range vs. short-range aspects of psychological warfare will be considered.

[Redacted]

Coordinator
External Research/OIC

OIC/CEH:br (24 May 1954)

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