

January 18, 1957

Dr. Otto E. Guthe
Central Intelligence Agency
2430 E Street, N. W.
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Dr. Guthe:

Recently the EDAC Community, through Working Group I, has initiated renewed consideration of the question of multilateral controls over the provision of ships and ship services to the Soviet bloc. Two papers on this subject, one prepared by Defense (WG I D-53) and the other from Commerce (WG I D-53.1), have been discussed in the Working Group.

The Group has agreed that further analysis of the subject by CIA and the other agencies of the economic defense intelligence community would be desirable, before consideration of action possibilities, and has agreed on the attached outline for the study, recognizing that some modifications might seem appropriate as work progresses.

Representatives of the Group who have been considering this problem have suggested, through the WG I Chairman, that I write to you on it. I believe further analysis is important, and I should like to request that CIA take responsibility for conducting an inter-agency intelligence study, along the lines of the attached outline, through such organizational arrangements as CIA sees fit to make.

As you know, this is a difficult subject, with a long history, and the question of what to do about ship controls has from time to time enjoyed considerable high-level attention. Prior to the next CG meeting, we shall have to decide what the U.S. position should be on the subject. For these reasons, I hope that the study can be pursued with the best-equipped personnel available in the appropriate agencies. I hope the study can be transmitted to Working Group I within the next four or five weeks. With that in hand, the Group will be able to consider, and prepare its recommendations on, the action problem.

Sincerely yours,

Attachment

W. S. DeLany
Deputy Director for
Mutual Defense Assistance Control

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