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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON 25

September 17, 1956

MEMORANDUM

TO : Chairman, Economic Defense Intelligence Committee

FROM : Department of Commerce Member *JS*

SUBJECT: Expedition and Dissemination of Intelligence Material Relating
to Strategic Commodities

1. The attached copy of a Department of Commerce memorandum emphasizes the importance of obtaining more expeditious dissemination of intelligence information relating to strategic commodities.

2. In view of the responsibility of EDIC in the procedural aspects of this problem, it is requested that EDIC:

a. Determine the nature of the delays involved in transmission of Air Intelligence Report IR-195-56 from Bonn to Washington, and from State Department to the Department of Commerce;

b. In the above case, undertake such remedial action as may be appropriate to prevent similar delays;

c. Emphasize to the intelligence community the importance of expeditious handling and transmission of all intelligence information pertaining to strategic commodities to appropriate Washington agencies, including the Bureau of Foreign Commerce of the Department of Commerce.

DOC Exempt Letter On File

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EDIC

Mr. Aaron Tollin
Export Policy Staff

August 22, 1956
FC-2660-HEG

Wilson B. Sweeney, Director
Strategic Controls Division

Testing Device (IL 1502)

Reference: Bonn D-2437, June 4, 1956 (Air Intelligence Information Report
IR-195-56)

The reference communication transmits an Air Intelligence Report plus a technical drawing of a supersonic sheet steel testing device which is being produced in Western Germany. Air Intelligence has established that Russia and various satellites expressed great interest in this device and that negotiations were afoot for the possible sale of 20 pieces of equipment.

On the basis of the technical drawing and additional information supplied by the IR report, BFC has identified this item to fall under IL 1502 (Schedule B - 766990). I strongly recommend that the necessary steps be taken to prevent what appears to be the illegal shipment of an embargo item.

The value of such Intelligence Report would seem to be greatly reduced by the length of time that elapses before action can be taken. The report in question states a date of information February 1956, the Embassy transmitted it on June 4 to the State Department and BFC received it about August 10, half a year after the basic facts were collected by Air Intelligence. I believe that this problem was brought to the attention of EDIC in one or two previous cases and possibly should be put before the committee again.

cc: Mr. Henry Shavell

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